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FBIS-SOV-96-114 *12 June 1996*

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Russia: FBIS Presidential Election Report 10 Jun
WA1106003796

[FBIS Report] ***This is the eighth in a series of FBIS reports on Russian regional developments in the campaign for the 16 June presidential election. It is based solely on Russian media reporting from Moscow and provincial sources (see note 1).***

(Note 1) FBIS postal receipt of some Russian local media sources accounts for the dated nature of certain items cited. This FBIS media note presents the local media in the timeliest manner possible, given procurement constraints.

Yeltsin Calls on Kaliningrad Voters To Support "The Cause" In an interview in KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA (18 May), President Boris Yeltsin portrayed the 16 June presidential election as a referendum on the future of Russia. Asked if he is afraid of being defeated in the elections, Yeltsin asserted that he is not afraid of his "personal defeat," but he is "afraid of a defeat of the cause which we, the Russians, began five years ago." He added that if "reforms are interrupted now, our children and grandchildren will have to begin them from scratch" in five or ten years.

In the interview, Yeltsin also rejected the allegation that the Kremlin is considering "forceful scenarios" if he is not reelected. He retorted that the only "forceful scenario" the Kremlin is considering is "where the country would find the forces to survive yet another [communist] experiment if, God forbid, the country 'chooses' it to its detriment." He also claimed that "all the talk about a coup" in case of an election loss is a "provocation."

Yeltsin Answers Regions' Requests for Judicial Reform Yeltsin submitted a draft law to the State Duma calling for the adoption of a trial-by-jury system in 12 Russian regions, according to INTERFAX (1 June). The report claims that the leaders of the legislative and executive bodies of the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, Karelia, Belgorod, Kaliningrad, Kaluga, Nizhniy Novgorod, Orel, Penza, Samara, Tver, and Chelyabinsk had applied to the Russian justice ministry for the introduction of the trial-by-jury system, and Yeltsin's draft law appears to be a direct response to their requests. In a letter that accompanied the draft law, Yeltsin claimed that since the 1993 inception of the trial-by-jury system in parts of Russia, it has proven to be an efficient institution of a democratic, law-based state.

Zyuganov Underscores Social Welfare KABARDINO-BALKARSKAYA PRAVDA (31 May) reported that Communist Party (CPRF) leader and presidential candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov promised Nalchik voters specific measures to increase social support. He promised to provide "honest work" for every person, decrease taxes but adopt measures for their "timely collection," decrease fares for all modes of transport, provide support to the indigent and the poor, guarantee free higher education, and make possible the repayment of savings to depositors, according to the article.

New St. Petersburg "Governor" Endorses Yeltsin (See Note 2) Despite the support of the local branch of Yabloko in winning the 3 June second-round victory over incumbent mayor Anatoliy Sobchak for the St. Petersburg governorship, governor-elect Vladimir Yakovlev called on Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy to form a coalition with Yeltsin for the presidential election (RTV, 3 June). Yakovlev, formerly Sobchak's deputy, contended that although Russia's reform process "needs correction," only Yeltsin can "ensure civil accord" and "stable development" (ITAR-TASS, 2 June; RTV, 3 June). Yakovlev also said he will try to woo the St. Petersburg communist electorate away from Zyuganov (RTV, 3 June).

Some Russian media do not expect Yakovlev's endorsement to have much effect on St. Petersburg voters. For example, IZVESTIYA (4 June) assessed Yakovlev's victory as the result of a temporary "coalition" of political forces. The paper claimed that "the winner in St. Petersburg was not Vladimir Yakovlev but an 'anti-Sobchak coalition' headed by Vladimir Yakovlev," adding that this coalition—which apparently included reformers and communists—"will in no way be present in the presidential election."

(Note 2) Under legislation passed by the St. Petersburg legislature making the status of the city's mayor equivalent to that of the governor of the surrounding Leningrad Oblast, the title of the city's chief executive was recently changed to "governor."

Nalchik Paper Doubts Zhirinovskiy Can Win in Oblast The Kabardino-Balkaria newspaper GAZETA YUGA, which has run a series of brief articles on the presidential candidates' representatives in the region, carried a 24 May article on Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's authorized representatives, Avetik Avetisyan and Aleksey Sovetkin. Asked what awaits Russia in the event of Zhirinovskiy's election, Avetisyan answered, "There will be big changes [sdvigi]." The interviewer countered, however, that "even [Zhirinovskiy's] closest comrades-in-arms are not sure of his victory," noting that a preelection conference of Liberal-Democratic Party (LDPR) members in Moscow discussed the prospect of Zhirinovskiy's appointment to the post of interior minister or vice premier. The newspaper also contended that convincing Nalchik voters to support

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Zhirinovskiy is even "more difficult" because during a November 1995 visit Zhirinovskiy promised the republic 200 billion rubles, "but he did not keep his word."

Ingush President Withholds His Endorsement Ingushetia President Ruslan Aushev, expressing bitterness at the choice of candidates in the election, stopped short of endorsing any presidential candidate. Aushev asserted the people are having difficulty choosing, saying "they do not like the communists" because "they destroyed everything," while democracy "also did not produce anything good." Aushev said it is "difficult" to say whom he will vote for because he "did not like what existed in the country previously" and he "does not like what is happening now." He concluded that Yeltsin will "have to work" for the Russian people's support. Otherwise, he claimed, the people will say they will vote for him, but then vote for someone else.

Russia's Muslims Split Among Candidates Political organizations centered around Russia's Muslim population appear to be deeply divided on which presidential candidate to endorse. The organizations include the "Muslims of Russia" movement, founded in mid-April and claiming to represent 39 Russian regions (IZVESTIYA, 16 April), the "Union of Muslims of Russia," which emerged from the Moscow Islamic Cultural Center founded in 1991 (MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI, 21-28 April), and the "Nur" all-Russian Muslim movement, which claims membership of "40 percent of the 20 million Russian Muslims" and regional contingents in 70 oblasts and republics (Nalchik VREMYA I DENGI, 23 May).

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI (4 June) published a letter from the "Muslims of Russia" movement, announcing that the movement had decided to endorse Yeltsin's candidacy. The letter claimed that its endorsement came as a direct result of Yeltsin's agreement on cease-fire terms in the Chechen war.

Although the "Union of Muslims" and the "Nur" movement apparently united into one organization in late April, they may be divided on whom to endorse. On 4 April cochairman Abdul-Vakhed Niyazov announced that the "Union of Muslims" will support Yeltsin's candidacy, citing the "Chechen settlement" as a "crucial reason," according to INTERFAX. On 1 May INTERFAX reported that the "Union of Muslims" and the "Nur" movement signed an agreement to unite. The report noted, however, that "Union of Muslims" North Caucasus coordinator Mukhtar Saypulayev repudiated Niyazov's 4 April endorsement as "his personal position" and contended that the "Union of Muslims" and "Nur" will eventually agree on a single position on the election (INTERFAX, 1 May).

Kabardino-Balkaria's VREMYA I DENGI (23 May) reported that the "Nur" movement is "counting on Yavlinskiy" in the presidential race. A delegation from the "Nur" movement met Yavlinskiy and found common cause with Yavlinskiy's electoral platform, including "the halt of the Chechen war, revival of the domestic economy, and securing a worthy living standard for Russians." "Nur" representatives reportedly announced during a meeting with journalists that they will not "force their viewpoint" on all Russian Muslims, but will "explain lucidly" what life was like under the communists, what it is under the democrats, and what it will be like under professional academic-reformers."

Russia: Yeltsin Seeks Support From Oil Region Residents

LD1106133796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1311 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KHANTY MANSII, June 11 (PIA-Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has urged residents of the Khanty Mansii autonomous district, a major Russian oil-producing region, to support him in the June 16 presidential elections, a correspondent from Interfax's Petroleum Information Agency reports.

"I, your president, am asking you for support not because I want to remain in power for another four years by all means," Yeltsin said in an appeal to Khanty Mansii residents. "I am running for a second term because I feel that I am capable of completing, for the first time in Russian history, the reforms that the country needs so badly," Yeltsin said.

"As the Russian president who has assumed responsibility for the implementation of reforms, I want to reassure you that everything precious and vigorous that your district has in industry, agriculture, and social and cultural areas will not only be preserved but will also be multiplied," he said.

The last five years have taught society a lot, Yeltsin said. "They have also taught me a lot. Primarily, [I have learned that] reforms must not be carried out at any price," he said.

"It is from this angle that I have seriously corrected the strategy of reforms that I fully set out in my election platform," Yeltsin said. "The essence is that Russia needs changes, but it needs changes which will not affect the essence of the principles and aims of the reforms launched five years ago," he said. Russia "needs changes that would help reduce social costs relating to

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reforms, give every Russian citizen broad opportunities to live by his own labor and skills," Yeltsin said. "Only then will the changes bring our country to stability, well-being and prosperity and will allow Russia to remain a great world power in the next century," he said.

Russia: Election Advertisement Portrays Yeltsin as Family Man

LD1106205996 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1740 GMT 11 Jun 96

[Election advertisement for Russian President Boris Yeltsin, consisting of family snapshots, with Yeltsin voiceover]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yeltsin] I was born in the village of Butka, in quite a solid peasant family. I remember that my mother used to bake potato pies, called shayniki. I had no problems at school except misconduct — I used to be a bit of a hooligan. I liked sports very much. From the age of five or six I used to play football — our ball was made of rags — then I went over to volleyball. I was a player and a coach at the same time.

Sometime in my second year I met Naina. Later, when we were graduating from the institute we agreed to meet again in exactly a year's time, and if by that time we still had feelings for each other, that would be great. So that's how we got married. I always wanted a boy but she bore girls, Lena and Tanya. And now we have granddaughters, Katya and Masha, and two grandsons, Boris and Gleb. Boris took after me, he is a live wire, a leader, a brave boy. He is not averse to taking on a fight, and I never scold him for that. I enjoy their company. And it is great to have a family I can always fall back on, otherwise I would simply have crumbled at certain moments in life.

The last few years have been years of change, difficult and very important years for the country. Believe me, not a single person in Russia has had an easy life in that period.

Coming back to our present day, we will all go to vote on 16 June. [video shows casually-dressed Yeltsin sitting in an armchair in a room, a large photograph of him with Naina on the wall behind him]

We will be electing not only our own future but that of our children and grandchildren, we will be determining the future of our Russia.

We will definitely win because we believe, we love and we hope. [video shows still of Yeltsin and caption "I love, I believe, I hope," his signature and the words "B.N. Yeltsin"]

Russia: Zyuganov Interviewed on Election Issues

LD1106201096 Moscow NTV in Russian 1535 GMT 11 Jun 96

[Interview with Russian presidential candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov by Yevgeniy Kiselev; from the "Hero of the Day" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Kiselev] Here is another edition of the "Hero of the Day" program. This is Yevgeniy Kiselev in the studio. Good evening. [paaaage omitted] Today we have live in the studio with us Gennadiy Andreyevich Zyuganov. Good evening to you, Gennadiy Andreyevich.

[Zyuganov] Hello.

[Kiselev] Gennadiy Andreyevich, today, as for the past few days, there has been a lot of talk about your possible alliance with Zhirinovskiy. On the one hand, at a news conference today you have already denied having offered him a post in the possible future government, right? On the other hand, today he made a rather curious statement in an interview to CNN, which you know well. This is what he said — let us watch it now.

[begin recording] [Zhirinovskiy, on screen talking to a CNN reporter] If I receive about 20 million votes, as I expect, I will insist on being given the post of prime minister; if it is significantly less than that, that of deputy prime minister — nothing less — one of the leaders of the government. If he agrees, the overwhelming majority of my supporters will comply with my request to vote for him and he will win on 3 July. [end recording]

[Kiselev] What can you say to that, Gennadiy Andreyevich?

[Zyuganov] There are just a few days to go before the election, let us wait and see what the political worth of each candidate is. As for my personal viewpoint, I believe the government must be a genuine coalition government. Our bloc itself comprises over 200 parties and movements. Moreover, we have said quite openly ...

[Kiselev, interrupting] But out of these 200 plus parties and movements ...

[Zyuganov, interrupting] It does not matter.

[Kiselev] In fact 199 are tiny.

[Zyuganov] On the contrary, every one has a structure, and they are all major ones. On the other hand, Mr. Yeltsin has no parties or movements. Anyway, we have already proposed discussing this matter with the leaders of the third force, be it Fedorov, Govorukhin,

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Glazyev, or Yavlinskiy — each responded differently, but nonetheless after the election ...

[Kiselev, interrupting] In fact they all responded in a similar way.

[Zyuganov] After the election we will see the real results. Moreover ...

[Kiselev, interrupting] Gennadiy Andreyevich ...

[Zyuganov] No, just a minute, I will answer your question. Moreover, the appointment of chairman of the government has to be approved by the State Duma, therefore we will hold consultations with all the factions there. Furthermore, all business circles have an interest in who will fill this post, therefore we will listen carefully to the views of everyone — businessmen, bankers, industrialists and production bosses. Without this a genuine coalition government cannot be formed, and we are very keen to have it because it has to be a government of popular trust.

[Kiselev] No, I beg your pardon, Gennadiy Andreyevich. First of all I asked you specifically about Zhirinovskiy, and you are being evasive.

[Zyuganov] I have unambiguously told you that we have not offered a post to Zhirinovskiy — you have reported it yourself. We have not discussed these matters with him.

[Kiselev] What did you talk about then? There was an Interfax report — you told Interfax yourself that you had been discussing the election.

[Zyuganov] We did discuss the election.

[Kiselev] What did you discuss then — whether or not you are going to vote? What did you talk about?

[Zyuganov] Oh no. And incidentally, it is very important for the election to take place after all.

[Kiselev] So you have some doubts about it then?

[Zyuganov] So far yes. It is important to have the votes counted properly. You can see for yourself what hullabaloo was started about this, even though the only thing we suggested was that each candidate's representatives at every polling station should be given a copy of the protocol — and everything will be fine then. That is what we discussed.

[Kiselev] But, excuse me, the law allows this anyway.

[Zyuganov] How do you mean allows? Can't you see how many objections were raised? It was only yesterday that the government coalition finally said it would send its own observers too. What we wanted was for all the observers to be present and to receive a copy. Then everyone can do the counting. And the electoral commission can do it [as heard]. And then we will see where votes will have been added. Last time, in the referendum on the constitution, millions of votes were added, and I do not want this to happen again.

[Kiselev] I see. Well, back to Zhirinovskiy. You have said you did not discuss the probability of his appointment. But still, let us speculate. You will probably need extra votes, particularly in the event of the election going into the second round. Incidentally, do you expect there to be a second round?

[Zyuganov] We are staking on the first round and our progress is quite steady in this respect. The latest surveys have shown that we have solid backing. I have visited the vital regions myself, there were tens of thousands of people there, the young and the veterans, farmers and industrialists, the business circles — they all like our program.

[Kiselev] All right, but let us suppose there will be a second round after all, and you will need extra votes to try and win. And the surveys you have mentioned show that the votes of Zhirinovskiy's supporters could bring you an additional share.

[Zyuganov] Votes cannot be transferred mechanically, even if a leader urges his supporters to vote for someone. We will see what each is worth ...

[Kiselev, interrupting] Suppose he gets 10 per cent. Do you ...

[Zyuganov, interrupting] Let us not play the guessing game, we have not long to wait.

[Kiselev] But you do not rule out this possibility, do you?

[Zyuganov] I would like to say that in our manifesto we put it quite clearly: We are leaving the door open for dialogue with everyone, including the power structures. But they have been avoiding a direct discussion live on the air, and declined signing a treaty to ensure that the election does go ahead, votes are counted fairly, and the people's will is carried out. We are ready to cooperate with anyone who wants peace in Russia and a normal development of the situation in the country.

[Kiselev] But do you not think that the proposal you have mentioned, for all the presidential candidates to sign an agreement promising to accept the outcome, that this proposal itself contains an element of breaching the presumption of innocence? After all, why do you suspect other candidates of dishonesty? If you say that this agreement has to be signed, this means you suspect other candidates can choose to act improperly?

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[Zyuganov] I do not suspect anyone. We are proposing a very simple thing...

[Kiselev, interrupting] But by making this proposal you...

[Zyuganov, interrupting] I do not. This is in line with European standards: Observers monitor the election and receive a copy of the protocol, which is subsequently published in every newspaper. This is the proposal we put forward, primarily to the authorities. And by the way, not a single candidate rejected this idea. This does not discriminate against anyone. Everyone will just receive a copy of the protocol at every polling station.

[Kiselev] But I did not ask you about copies of the protocol, I asked you about the agreement in which all the candidates pledge to accept the final outcome of the election.

[Zyuganov] Have you not heard how many threats of fabrication there have been? Even NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, the newspaper I respect very much, has recently published a forgery they have found somewhere and which is very reminiscent of the methods used by the Interregional Group of Deputies [pro-democracy faction in the USSR Supreme Soviet] when it was arranging the collapse of the [Soviet] Union. Now they are proposing to do the same with Russia, banning political parties and accusing them groundlessly of all sorts of ...

[Kiselev, interrupting] The love of old does not rust, as they say. You, Gennadiy Andreyevich, just cannot help mentioning the Interregional Group of Deputies.

[Zyuganov] It is just that I know all too well what I all came to and I do not want the same thing to happen to Russia.

[Kiselev] But there is another opinion too, that the creation of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation in 1991, sorry, in 1990, contributed substantially to the collapse of the Soviet Union, as did the Declaration of Russian Independence by the way.

[Zyuganov] Incidentally, the party was actually set up after Gorbachev and his team betrayed his country, his oath, the banner, and all his comrades ...

[Kiselev, interrupting] But at the time you were a member of the Central Committee of the CPSU. Do you not bear any responsibility for that?

[Zyuganov] Oh yes I do, and that was why I set up the Communist Party of Russia — only it was set up too late. Had we done it one year earlier, he would not have been able to do what he did.

[Kiselev] Well, all right, I suppose one can argue about that. But let us not delve deep into history — although I was going to ask you about history, but in another aspect ...

[Zyuganov, smiling, interrupts] It is indeed an interesting and instructive subject.

[Kiselev] I agree. But still, you have mentioned opinion polls and said some polls show you can win outright in the first round. But the polls we have seen rather indicate that you are not gaining any ground, that you have no more that 26-27 percent.

[Zyuganov, laughs] Yevgeniy Alekseyevich, you are a man of experience. No one's rating can rise from six to 40 percent. Every sociologist knows that. [Nugzar] Betaneli did a good job and gave us a picture that seemed quite close to the truth — but then, 10 days later, he must have been subjected to enormous pressure because he showed Mr. Yeltsin...

[Kiselev, interrupting] But why do you suspect sociologists of dishonesty, Gennadiy Andreyevich?

[Zyuganov] I do not suspect, I just know their polls and I know whose forecasts do come true and whose do not, I know what they are worth in this respect, I have seen their ...

[Kiselev, interrupting] By the way, do you know that so far Betaneli's polls have come good?

[Zyuganov] Yes, by the way, he made the most accurate prediction of the election results in December, and I ...

[Kiselev, interrupting] Well, today Betaneli published the following figures: Yeltsin has 40 percent and Zyuganov 31, so ...

[Zyuganov, interrupting] But he knows as well that no one's rating can rise by 10 percent in 10 days. And his figure has risen by 10 percent in 10 days.

[Kiselev] Well, in Russia nothing is impossible.

[Zyuganov] Well, maybe, maybe.

[Kiselev] Yes, in Russia nothing is impossible. And incidentally, I do not know if you agree with Aleksandr Ivanovich Lebed, who told us here yesterday that he regarded foreign opinion polls as more valuable. We all know that you do not trust the West ...

[Zyuganov, laughs] I do trust serious research though. And, excuse me please, I have asked for a picture from western TV screens — and there Mr. Yeltsin's rating is only half that shown by Russian polls.

[Kiselev] Well, I don't know about that, but here we have a poll conducted by CNN and the MOSCOW

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TIMES newspaper on 10-14 May. In it, Yeltsin's rating is 29 percent and Zyuganov's 19 percent. This is the American TV company, CNN. You know that it is almost like Caesar's wife — beyond suspicion.

[Zyuganov] Oh, really?

[Kiselev] And here is another one, from the institute of Soviet studies in Frankfurt: Yeltsin has 34 percent and Zyuganov has 30. The German Public Institute of East Europe: Yeltsin has 34 percent and Zyuganov 24.

[Zyuganov] Well, let us wait just four days and then every ...

[Kiselev, interrupting] Of course we will wait, but how much do you expect to get yourself? Yesterday Aleksandr Ivanovich Lebed gave me a very specific figure, and I would like to ask you too: What share do you expect to receive?

[Zyuganov] I'll be very specific too, even though my answer may not satisfy you.

[Kiselev] Why do you say that?

[Zyuganov] The bloc that backs me got 25 million votes back in December. If we add one to every one, we will have a very good result.

[Kiselev] What do you mean, one to every one?

[Zyuganov] Everyone who voted for us has to persuade one more person to do the same. We are being denied regular TV appearances ...

[Kiselev, interrupting] So you want to get 50 million votes? What share is that then?

[Zyuganov] This task has been set for every one of our supporters. And you can calculate the share yourself. It will depend on the turnout. But we are confident that we will make solid gains this time.

[Kiselev] I see. So you want every one of the 25 million to bring another ...

[Zyuganov, interrupting] Only yesterday, someone approached me ...

[Kiselev, interrupting] This is like the thing Bryntsalov organized at Ferreyn [Bryntsalov's pharmacy in Moscow]. He too ordered all his staff ...

[Zyuganov, interrupting] Well, he ordered, while I asked. I would like to say that our backing is solid.

[Kiselev] Oh, right. Well, we will see. But if you do not get 50 million?

[Zyuganov] We will see. I will get it — soon. I am not saying I will get 50, but I am confident that my colleagues are working very hard. I saw it with my own eyes practically everywhere.

[Kiselev] Gennadiy Andreyevich, you have mentioned TV debates. Who would you like to face in a TV debate? And, generally speaking, are you prepared to face anyone in a TV debate?

[Zyuganov] I have submitted an official application and invited Mr. Yeltsin. I said: If he has failed to appear in the Duma for three years, if he simply does not want to report back to the voters, well then — let us just face each other, as our ratings are quite high.

[Kiselev] Well, it looks as though the president just does not want to.

[Zyuganov] What does it matter if he does not want it? He has to, if he supports democratic principles.

[Kiselev] But whether to take part in a TV debate is a matter of choice, the law does not ...

[Zyuganov, interrupting] Anyway, we have submitted an application to Mr. Yeltsin, maybe he will suddenly agree tomorrow ...

[Kiselev, interrupting] But he is the only one, you do not want to meet anyone else, is that right?

[Zyuganov] I have already met all the others. In your studio too, many of them. I have had numerous discussions with Yavlinskiy.

[Kiselev] I do not recall any such discussions.

[Zyuganov] Maybe not in your studio.

[Kiselev] Incidentally, he is inviting you to a TV debate. Will you come?

[Zyuganov] Yavlinskiy is?

[Kiselev] Yavlinskiy is.

[Zyuganov] He has not told me about it.

[Kiselev] Well, look, he said it live on the air in the Itogi program on Sunday. We can show you the recording.

[Zyuganov] Really?

[Kiselev] Yes.

[Zyuganov] Are you being serious?

[Kiselev] Word of honor.

[Zyuganov] Why does he need you to talk to me? After all, we sit together on the State Duma Council, and he can talk to me in person there.

[Kiselev] Are you coming or not?

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[Zyuganov] I'd like to hear this invitation from Yavlinskiy himself.

[Kiselev] Directly, you mean?

[Zyuganov] Yes. And incidentally, I still have not read his manifesto. They say it does exist somewhere. In order to have a discussion I need to have the manifesto, to have something to discuss. Last time he once again ...

[Kiselev, interrupting] We can present you with his manifesto ...

[Zyuganov, continues] ... came to AiF [ARGUMENTY I FAKTY], took my manifesto and the party rules, texts of my speeches, and started quoting. This is all very ..

[Kiselev, interrupting] Gennadiy Andreyevich, you are trying to avoid answering my question.

[Zyuganov] I am not. I am waiting for an invitation from Yavlinskiy.

[Kiselev, speaking at the same time] We will give you the manifesto. There has already been an invitation. So if you like we can arrange it to take place in this very studio.

[Zyuganov] Look, I have asked you to telephone Mr. Yeltsin and invite him on my behalf. I did ask you the last time, right?

[Kiselev] Well, you know, I do not think I am in a position to telephone Boris Yeltsin and pass on your invitation to him. So, to cut it short, you do not want to talk to Yavlinskiy, do you?

[Zyuganov] I just want to hear this invitation from him personally. And he should send me his manifesto. Three days to go to the election, and the manifesto is nowhere to be found! We do have to have something to discuss, and we have not got it.

[Kiselev] There are much simpler and more universal things that you can discuss, like the possibility of vote rigging.

[Zyuganov, smiling] We have had many discussions with him, and you were present at one of our discussions and saw it.

[Kiselev] You mean in Davos?

[Zyuganov] I do. And you could have shown it then. CNN actually broadcast it to every country in the world, with the exception of Russia.

[Kiselev] But we did show excerpts from those speeches, so do not twist the facts, Gennadiy Andreyevich. In fact we reported extensively on your speeches in Davos in front of many different audiences.

[Zyuganov] Mostly through the words of Chubays. I would have preferred you to have reported it yourself because you were there. It was quite interesting.

[Kiselev] Why, Gennadiy Andreyevich, what does Chubays have to do with it?

[Zyuganov] He commented on my speeches.

[Kiselev] Nothing of the sort. You are confusing me with someone else.

[Zyuganov] Ah well, maybe.

[Kiselev] Gennadiy Andreyevich, suppose you lose the presidential election. Will you accept your defeat?

[Zyuganov] What I would like to say is: Our country is not a casino. Everyone seems to be playing games. This sounds immoral. In a country that has been ruined ...

[Kiselev, interrupting] You are not answering my question.

[Zyuganov] Just a minute. I will answer.

[Kiselev] You are not answering.

[Zyuganov] I will. I do not want the election to be a game. The voters are having this game being imposed on them. I want them to choose in peace. When we have monitored all the polling stations and received the copies, the will of the people as stated in the voting will be our supreme law. We will comply with it strictly.

[Kiselev] Well then. But who do you mean by we? Does your statement cover the radicals like Mr. Anpilov, or Mr. Terekhov, or Mr. Makashev?

[Zyuganov] What do the radicals have to do with this? The greatest radicals are those who have robbed all the people, ruined the economy and who do not in effect want to hold a fair election today.

[Kiselev, laughs] Gennadiy Andreyevich, my colleague Svanidze used a wonderful phrase when summing up a recent interview you gave him. He said it was as if he was asking you what the time was and you were answering: Thank you, I've already had my lunch.

[Zyuganov] You know, instead of asking me questions, Svanidze grossly violated the law on presidential elections and started telling me off. Incidentally, a journalist can ask questions or answer them, but you do not have to comment — the law says so quite forcefully.

[Kiselev] Well, excuse me, but I am interviewing you now, so I can ask you questions I deem necessary ...

[Zyuganov, interrupting] I just want to say that I do not have much regard for Svanidze.

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[Kiselev] No, it's just that I fear that that our discussion now is taking the same course. I was asking you a simple question: Do you believe you have control over your coalition allies like Anpilov and Terekhov? Can you be sure they will not go into the streets to raise the wave of popular wrath if, say, the outcome is 51 to 49 in Yeltsin's favor?

[Zyuganov] All those who signed the agreement on setting up our bloc pledged to follow strictly the program I adopted. If they do not comply, we will send them packing immediately and we will not support them. We guarantee that we will fully respect public order. And by the way, you have no grounds for making such suggestions, except for the outrage perpetrated by the authorities on 1 May, having provoked everything themselves. In the past two or three years we have been organizing major events, without a single breach of public order throughout the country.

[Kiselev] You know, Gennadiy Andreyevich, I just cannot agree with what you have said at all because we have video footage. Our cameraman filmed the rally.

[Zyuganov] Oh yes, I know, you must have prepared everything in advance.

[Kiselev] No, no, we have not. We could show it to you — and you can see clearly a row of OMON [special purpose police detachments] members standing there with their shields — and the leading group of Anpilov's supporters running head-on straight into it, as if following an order.

[Zyuganov] You know as well as I do that a rally on 1 May is a nationwide festivity, and blocking its route is both unlawful and immoral. The law-enforcement bodies know it too, by the way. Of late they have been behaving in an orderly fashion and not one person ...

[Kiselev] They did not follow the designated route, and it is well known that rally participants have to comply with some laws and rules.

[Zyuganov] But there is another rule: One has to come and tell the rally organizers of the decisions taken. Nothing of the sort happened on that occasion.

[Kiselev] Well, at least it was clear that Anpilov's men attacked the OMON, not the other way round. And incidentally, you have said that all your coalition allies must, under the coalition agreement, share the views expressed in your manifesto. Am I right?

[Zyuganov] They pledged to do so. This is the main condition. If they do not observe it, we will simply dismiss them.

[Kiselev] And tell me, did Anpilov sign the agreement too?

[Zyuganov] He did.

[Kiselev] How then do some of his statements square with what your manifesto says? [passage omitted; excerpt from previous interview with Anpilov, who says Jews should not be allowed to appear on Russian TV]

So what can you say about these statements, these views of Mr. Anpilov. Do you share them?

[Zyuganov] I would like to say that in a multi-ethnic country the main principle that we have always advocated is that of friendship between the peoples, equal rights and equal opportunities. Any person has the right to appear on television and express his views. We guarantee this. On the other hand, one has to respect the peoples' traditions, languages, and cultures — including those of the Russian people, the Russian language. I have only just been driving in the main street, Gorkiy Street, or Tverskaya, and half the signs are in English. I too feel humiliated by this. Incidentally, in my home town, things are different. There, those signs were taxed, and they have quietly been replaced by signs in Russian. But I would like every ethnic group in this country to have its own rights, to be able to express its views, to have its representatives both in state bodies and on TV screens. I think everyone will only benefit from this. [passage omitted]

[Kiselev] So you do deplore antisemitism?

[Zyugabnov] I deplore nationalism as such, including antisemitism.

[Kiselev] Very well, then. Here I have an issue of an antisemitic newspaper, RUSSKIYE VEDOMOSTI, published by Mr. Viktor Ivanovich Korchagin. The paper, incidentally, was registered with the Ministry of Press and Information, registration number 95. Here, on the first page and also on the second page you can find a huge number of anti-Jewish slogans. Also on the first page there is an article entitled "Why We Must Back Zyuganov." Its main idea is: Let us vote against Yeltsin, let us vote against [as heard] Zyuganov because Zyuganov knows the Jewish question well.

[Zyuganov] I don't know about that. This is their point of view.

[Kiselev] It is a photograph, with your signature and expression of gratitude for the support at the elections.

[Zyuganov] This photograph is taken from my business cards which were given out everywhere. It is the one from the calendar. As for the newspapers, they publish anything they want. MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has a whole page about me every day. Today they finally dug out my village where I was born and trashed my whole life.

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[Kiselev] Are there any untrue allegations in the paper?

[Zyuganov] All of them, 100 percent untrue.

[Kiselev] All 100 percent?

[Zyuganov] Read it.

[Kiselev] I have. Maybe not too attentively, to be honest with you, however..

[Zyuganov, interrupting] I recently met some foreign correspondents, you know, and they visited my village.

[Kiselev] Our correspondents visited it, too.

[Zyuganov] They said they did not find anyone who would say a bad word. I don't know where MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS gets its information. Ask anyone, starting with the school janitor.

[Kiselev] But they did go there and they are quoting the people who know you. So you say there is not a single word of truth in that article?

[Zyuganov] I decline to comment. I thought that...

[Kiselev, interrupting] It is a kind of article that does hurt, of course.

[Zyuganov] I thought that there would be a lot of dirt. Anyway, I finished school there with an all-round A-plus, became a teacher at 17, worked at the collective farm for 12 years, and everyone knows it far too well. I have always helped my friends and relations. I went to university. Why do they just rubbish everything? Is there anything these people won't touch? Everyone in my family was at war. One hundred males left our village for the front, almost no one came back. They would turn anything into dirt, anything they touch begins to smell of dirt.

[Kiselev] I think the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS correspondents also had relatives who defended the country.

[Zyuganov] I don't know about that.

[Kiselev] I do. Relatives of my colleagues on MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS also defended our country as army people, at the fronts of the Great Patriotic War.

[Zyuganov] I don't want to discuss this. Let God be their judge. Let God be.

[Kiselev] Gennadiy Andreyevich, you touched upon your biography. Do you think you have enough experience to rule Russia as a president?

[Zyuganov] When I was asked to run in January, I said that a strong team, well trained, skilled and experienced, would manage this task, basing itself on nationwide support. As for me personally, I have worked my way up through the system of governing the state. University, then a city, a territory, and finally the central bodies of government. I have five years of experience in running administrative bodies — the army, police, and the prosecutors' offices. I know them well. I have many years of experience in systems management, I worked in a group on a special brief dealing with emergencies, wars, and dangers of wars. I have visited all the Russian regions. I know the country, from the Baltics to the Far East. Some of our politicians have never been anywhere but Moscow, Sochi, or Paris.

[Kiselev] In other words, one can reword your biography as follows: After school, I worked as a physical education teacher for one year, then, after finishing at teacher training college in Orel, in the district committee of the young communist league, then the city committee, and the regional committee of the young Communist league; then the Orel region committee of the Communist Party. Then, after graduating...

[Zyuganov, interrupting] You are again just listing them. Say what I did when I was in charge of the city committee. Zyuganov was in charge of the administrative bodies, commerce, and the humanities. Why don't you ask how universities lived then, or many other things?

Together with my colleagues, I developed a continuous construction cycle in Orel, one of the best systems of organizing construction of houses, community centers, and other things.

[Kiselev] Do you think that this kind of career and these jobs have given you enough experience to become a president?

[Zyuganov] I believe so because I have experience of working in every area, in villages, universities, districts, towns, regions, and the country as a whole. I have worked in complex systems, I have prepared key decisions on many issues.

[Kiselev] As a president, will you be able to raise above party interests? To become someone who does not depend on the opinions of such people as Makashov or Anpilov?

[Zyuganov] You've limited your choice rather a lot haven't you. Come on, think of something better.

[Kiselev] Who else is there?

[Zyuganov] Think of someone, anyone. Otherwise it is the same old bunch.

[Kiselev] All right, Valentin Kuptsov, or Anatoliy Lukyanov, and finally, Gennadiy Seleznev.

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[Zyuganov] Seleznev is an able man, he runs the Duma well. Kuptsov does his job well, too.

[Kiselev] Will you depend on them in your work, or will you become the president of all Russians?

[Zyuganov] In our headquarters alone we have 200 directors of various organizations, widely representing all Russians. We have united the third force. I announce: Anyone who works in the state apparatus, including government members, who holds Russia dear, and who can work hard, will be able to continue working and we will be happy to invite them and use their experience. I am sure that they will answer our invitation. This also concerns many power departments [silovye vedomstva], who have a hard time just now, being pushed into rushed solutions. This will bring tragedy to our country, which will be ten times worse for it than Chechnya.

I am sure that they will have enough wisdom to abide by the democratic norms of the elections and to support the will that the people will express at the elections.

[Kiselev] Gennadiy Andreyevich, one can see from international experience that many leaders of left-wing parties or coalitions have resigned from their party after being elected as leaders of state or government. Is it possible that after becoming president you could resign from the Russian Communist Party?

[Zyuganov] I will abide strictly by the law. My convictions are well known, I have written many books and dozens of publications about this. One does not change convictions. Unless one is a democrat of course — an orthodox Communist yesterday, a democrat in the morning, then turning into a proponent of a strong state, and still moving on.

[Kiselev] One can have a different opinion of course. Only those who are not intelligent never change their opinions. Intelligent people, as it were, constantly revalue their experiences and change their thinking.

[Zyuganov] Our party has progressed enormously in this respect — on the mixed economy, on a democratic government, on a multi-party system, on comprehensive relations with both east and west, and openness to dialogue with anyone. In this sense, we are a good example of democracy.

[Kiselev] Not a single word about private property, however.

[Zyuganov, laughing] Come on, you yourself said last time...

[Kiselev, interrupting] Not a single word, not a single word.

[Zyuganov] You yourself last time said...

[Kiselev, interrupting] Not a single word. Last time we said that, and I can prove it.

[Zyuganov] You should read our economic program, which has a section on...

[Kiselev, interrupting] Speaking of which, are you aware of the letter from the major Russian industrialists?

[Zyuganov] Yes I am.

[Kiselev] They say that if Zyuganov's economic program is implemented, I quote, Russia will be in for the deepest crisis in the next four to six months, in all areas of the economy, and will be isolated on the world markets.

[Zyuganov] Using the opportunity of being on your program, I invite them to a comprehensive discussion involving experts, scientists, and economists. I recently expounded my program in the major industrial centers, before 300 to 400 major industrialists, bankers, and entrepreneurs.

[Kiselev] Three to four hundred? We do not have so many major ones.

[Zyuganov] Come on, in Krasnoyarsk or Novosibirsk.

[Kiselev] Four hundred in Krasnoyarsk?

[Zyuganov] Indeed. And you know, they listened to it with great interest.

[Kiselev] Those thirteen authors of the letter are an interested party, too.

[Zyuganov] That is why I invite them for an open discussion, rather than writing my program off in a two-page resume. There is no foundation in it.

[Kiselev] I have read it in detail, it appears to be very concise, and one can see that it's very thorough.

[Zyuganov] I think they are under pressure to prove loyalty to Boris Nikolayevich.

[Kiselev] Don't you feel that the situation puts you under pressure, too?

[Zyuganov] The situation is very difficult, very dramatic indeed.

[Kiselev] Are you afraid of losing the election? I do apologize for using the same jargon, but there is nothing else in the Russian language.

[Zyuganov] I am afraid for Russia. Gorbachev's five years destroyed the Union state and caused unknown humiliation, such as humanitarian aid. Under Yeltsin, the economy has fallen apart, impoverishment and crime

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are rampant. Another two years of such policies and we will all lose our country and money.

[Kiselev] I must say, to redress the balance, that there are very many people in Russia — millions in fact — who fear that if the Communists come to power there will be a catastrophe in Russia.

[Zyuganov] Yevgeniy Alekseyevich, I do beg your pardon. First, it is the bloc that is running. You are well aware of this. Second — let me just finish — Zyuganov did not give the order to bomb Groznyy. Zyuganov did not take anything from anyone. Zyuganov did not carry out barbaric privatizations, neither did he give an order to take money deposits from his compatriots. Zyuganov did not foster unemployment and poverty. Not at this address, not at all. Send it to the people who have carried it all out. We have done nothing of the sort.

[Kiselev] But you have never been in a position of power. Let us see what happens if...

[Zyuganov, interrupting] I am member of the Duma State Council. There are only 10 people in it. In any state, these people would be under special protection. I represent a faction of 181 deputies, a great political force.

[Kiselev] That's only for six months.

[Zyuganov] Six months is six months. No one else has managed to put together a bloc. Mr. Yeltsin does not have a single political structure which would support him.

[Kiselev] Our time is running out. I must say yet again that a great number of these organization have in fact many members. It is a fact that many organizations have expressed their protest, saying that they did not give their consent and that...

[Zyuganov, interrupting] That is why I invite all to have a meeting. Not a single organization, you know, has said that. Not a single allegation has turned out to be true.

[Kiselev] But these people have made a statement.

[Zyuganov] They gave their consent. There are no such people in fact.

[Kiselev] In fact we see, as before, a union of Communists, the Argarian Party, and Mr. Anpilov's supporters.

[Zyuganov] The Russian All-People's Union, Derzhava, all officers' unions, creative unions.

[Kiselev] The Russian All-people's Union, Derzhava — the same bunch. We know only too well how all these people have behaved on many occasions. I have to apologize, Gennadiy Andreyevich, I must finish our conversation now, as the time is up. Thank you for your answers, for spending with us your precious preelection time. We will be back on air the day after tomorrow, as it is a holiday tomorrow. Hero of the Day is not broadcast on holidays. On Thursday at 1935 we will meet Grigoriy Yavlinskiy. See you on Thursday.

[Zyuganov] Thank you and good bye.

Russia: Zyuganov Makes Speech to People's-Patriotic Congress

MM1106161396 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jun 96 pp 1, 3

[Speech by G.A. Zyuganov at the "Congress of People's-Patriotic Forces" in Moscow on 8 June: "We Will Move Not Into the Past but Into the Future"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Comrades and Friends!

My compatriots!

On the eve of an election you are supposed to make as many promises as possible. Usually people have to "wait three years" for the promises to come true, and in our country even longer — until the next election.

I do not intend to follow this unpleasant "tradition." People have grown tired of words and assurances. THEY WANT TO SEE ACTION.

All the programs were published and publicized a long time ago. It is time to implement them, without complaining about "objective factors." And we are doing this, no matter how difficult it may be.

I have stepped onto the rostrum today not in order to make new promises but to give an account of the work done by the people's patriotic bloc in the six months following the State Duma elections.

Last December 25 million people backed the parties and movements of a left-wing and patriotic orientation, which were not unified at that time. Today we form a single bloc. I am grateful to the leaders of all parties who have displayed pro-state thinking and expressed their readiness for unity: Nikolay Ryzhkov, Viktor Anpilov, Sergey Baburin, Mikhail Lapshin, and all the representatives of the 200 organizations which are supporting us. I am grateful to the rank and file members of these organizations, who have reacted with understanding and approval to their leaders' decisions on unification. We have been striving for this for six years, and we have united at a most crucial hour for the country.

I consider this one of the most important issues that we have resolved following the December elections.

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Work in the parliament has shown that there are no fundamental differences of opinion between the various opposition associations, that we pursue common aims. It is thanks to this that a great deal has already been done today. The level of minimum earnings, pensions, grants, and social subsidies has been raised. The state's debts to workers in the budget-funded sphere and to pensioners have started being paid off. A program of compensation for investments that were devalued during Gaydar's price liberalization has been adopted. Measures have been outlined to help cheated investors, and money is being allocated for supporting the peasants, high technology, science, culture, and education. An active quest for peace in Chechnya is going on. A package of legislative documents providing more effectively for the fight against crime, the protection of judges and witnesses, and the fight against corruption has been prepared. A new Criminal Code has been elaborated. A new Land Code has been drawn up making it possible to use all forms of land management efficiently.

Thanks to our coordinated work in the parliament, integration among the republics of the Soviet Union [as published] is intensifying. Foreign policy has become more independent. The Red Banner of Victory is once again our state symbol.

I know that hysterical politicians will cry out that all this is being done not by the opposition but by the current president. But no matter what they may shout, this is the achievement of us all — yours and ours. After all, until six months ago absolutely nothing was being done. Whereas today Yeltsin is promising to carry out and trying to carry out a lot of what is in OUR ELECTION PLATFORM.

The reason for this is not only the imminent election: The people's political sympathies have changed, and the general correlation of forces in politics has changed.

WE are the ones who by our legislative initiatives, by our work inside and outside the parliament, have forced the executive to take the will of two-thirds of Russian voters into account.

These are the REAL SUCCESSES OF THE PEOPLE'S-PATRIOTIC FORCES — THE DIRECT RESULT OF THEIR VICTORY IN THE DUMA ELECTIONS.

But this first small step is clearly not enough. We have no reason to believe in the sincerity of the president's and the government's plans to change course. AFTER THE ELECTION EVERYTHING WILL BE FORGOTTEN, as has always been the case throughout the past six years.

What is being done today is no more than PREELECTION TACTICS as far as the president is concerned. But for us this is state strategy. For him it is a forced concession, for us a CONSIDERED AIM.

We are the initiators of change, and we know how to finish what has been begun. They do not know and do not want to know. IT IS NOT ONLY NEW IDEAS THAT ARE NEEDED, BUT ALSO NEW PEOPLE, A NEW TEAM.

Things runs smoothly in a state when the legislature and the executive are in agreement with each other as regards what is to be done and how. Then laws and programs which are vital for the country are adopted efficiently and implemented rigorously.

How can such agreement be ensured, how can the efforts of the parliament and the government be pooled?

The new Duma has only just been elected, and its stance reflects the people's current moods and hopes. Consequently, the country now needs A NEW PRESIDENT, WHO SHARES THE STANCE OF THE MAJORITY OF DEPUTIES, and not the other way around.

Everyone became convinced a long time ago that Yeltsin FUNDAMENTALLY cannot, does not want to, and will not cooperate with the people's representatives. Everything "gets in his way" except... obsequious orderlies.

If he becomes president again, he will organize the dissolution of the parliament. This means more electoral commotion, and then new contradictions, and meanwhile no work will get done.

The conclusion is clear. Those who support the people's patriotic forces will vote for UNITY AND COORDINATION OF ACTION IN THE SUPREME POWER. But those who support the current president willy-nilly, will be advocating continued disorder and confusion.

I appeal to all voters: In December you took the first step, take the second step now. CONCERTED, COORDINATED WORK BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE PARLIAMENT DEPENDS ON YOU ALONE!

MAKE WAY FOR THE PEOPLE'S-PATRIOTIC BLOC! MAKE WAY FOR A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S TRUST!

Why has Yeltsin never appeared in the Duma in person for a discussion? Why is he unwilling to enter into an open and honest debate broadcast live to the whole country?

Because he is afraid: He has no answer, he has no way of countering the truth.

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Instead, the mass media that aid and abet him have filled the airwaves with a storm of slander, unprecedented in its insolence and obscenity, against the communists and patriots. Only the flood of public delight about Yeltsin himself can beat it for brazenness.

If I were the president I would be ashamed of such television publicity — after all, this is being imposed on the consumer as though it were chewing gum. In one advertisement we have "gum with sugar substitute," while here we have Sagalayev with Yakovlev BRAINWASHING YOU FROM DAWN TILL DUSK. They repeat like parrots that "there is no alternative." They could at least think for a moment about what they are saying. They have turned the elderly and the sick into beggars and brought the whole country to a situation whereby every year a million more people die than are born, and still there is no alternative.

But if this is the case, then it means that there is no alternative to the destitution and extinction of Russia. Does this mean that we should shut up shop and run off in different directions?

You have come to the wrong people. WE ARE RUSSIAN, SOVIET PEOPLE, AND NOT RATS ON A SINKING SHIP.

"Ratings," "FUTURES," and other preelection trifles are flashing before our eyes. An important matter has been turned into a game. People are entertaining themselves in their various different ways. To listen to the court sociologists and the stockbrokers, Yeltsin has supposedly already won and there is no need for any election.

So? We, for instance, have different figures, according to which Yeltsin still has a major battle to fight over second place with Zhirinovskiy and Yavlinskiy, and his chances are not the greatest.

This is not a question of ratings but of the voter's being able to make a choice independently and consciously. That is what he is being prevented from doing.

Unfortunately, there are still a lot of gullible people around who fall for false promises despite even the most obvious signs of failure. I would like to remind those who do not notice them, those who still have not realized what is actually happening, of the proverb "God will set his mark on the villain."

Let us also remember the prophecies of the Book of Revelation. Two beasts sent by the devil come out of a bottomless pit. The first has a mark on its head. The second beast (he is the anti-Christ) brands people on the hands. "And he seduces the people living on earth."

So what other warnings do we need? Not for nothing was it said: "GO AND SEE!" Those who have eyes will see. Those who have ears will hear. But he who does not want to see or hear, who, as John said "worships the beast and his image and receives its mark on his forehead or his hand, he will drink the wine of God's wrath."

Satanism is seeping into all the pores. For example, 6 June our people celebrated the birth of the luminary of Russian culture, Aleksandr Sergeyevich Pushkin. But on television we were being persuaded that we should celebrate Lucifer's birthday....

It is time to wake up from the devilish hallucination. It is time to clear all the garbage heaps of lies and slander and start living by our brains and thinking about what we see and hear.

"The Communists will come and start dividing everything up, blood will be shed, civil war will begin...." This is called laying the blame at someone else's doorstep. As though it were all peace and quiet today. You cannot turn on the television or open a newspaper without finding out that here a banker has been shot, there a businessman has been poisoned or an official blown up. The bloody fight over the division and redivision of property is in full swing. What is this: civil peace?

And it would not be so bad if they were just fighting among themselves. But no, they send others off to fight instead of themselves. The war in Chechnya — a war over control of arms and drug smuggling, a war over petroleum — is a most terrible example of this.

And there will not be peace there while the warring clans see that republic as a prize, there will not be peace until those who unleashed the carnage, those who find it advantageous, who have gotten fat on blood and tears, depart from BOTH sides.

While such wars go on, many will avoid military service, not because soldiers die in conflicts, but because WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DYING FOR. That is why the need has arisen for a mercenary army, prepared to take risks for the sake of money. Yeltsin is preparing for new adventures. The "humanist" only wants volunteers to be killed. We do not want ANYBODY TO BE KILLED — either draftees or volunteers. AND WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS.

Who needs a civil war? Who is threatening one? If patriots come to power, what is the advantage to them and what is the point of starting a war? That means it will be started by those who are unwilling to relinquish power. They are openly threatening violence and economic sabotage. An entire people will be turned

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into hostages: Either elect us or we will shoot everybody and suffocate them with the "bony hand of hunger."

What is the name for this?

SHAMIL BASAYEV SYNDROME! A more suitable definition will not be found....

People harp on about the repressions and the gulags. They are missing the point again. Please put this question to Mr. Yeltsin and his party nomenklatura, which rules as it has always ruled except 100 times freer of control, which grows fat as it has always grown fat except 100 times more gluttonously, and which spits on the people as it has always spat on them except 100 times more brazenly.

So much for the successors of Trotskiy and Beriya, Yakovlev and Gorbachev: shooting up parliaments and dispersing demonstrations, banning parties and closing down newspapers, and stealing savings.

But we are from another party. From the party of Stakhanov and Gagarin, Zhukov and Panfilov, Korolev and Kurchatov, Sholokhov and Tvardovskiy. Our party has always valued above all honesty and a high level of professionalism and patriotism and modesty.

It is now important that we combine the efforts of all honest professionals who are ready to serve the fatherland, irrespective of which party they belong to. We need those who are able and know how to work and those who can and want to work. There are a great many such people both in the center and in the provinces. We are open to them and ready to cooperate not on the principle of personal commitment but on the principle of THE CAUSE. There are also such people among our opponents whom people now want to portray as a "third force." I want to say that if we hold Russia dear we must not divide ourselves by numbers. I am sure that the economist Glazyev, the humanist Govorukhin, and the physician and ophthalmologist Fedorov hold it dear.

Should we dream of a return to the past? Are the current "reforms" not a direct continuation of the worst tendencies of the past? The economy's raw materials lameness, which is leading to a situation whereby the country is turning into the West's raw materials appendage. The ubiquitous loss of incentives for productive labor. The decay of the state apparatus, corruption, the former's merger with crime. All these are the fruits of the dominance of the "party of treason," which continues to rule the country from the same central committee and oblast party committee offices.

Even the thing that this party now flaunts most of all — political freedom — in actual fact sticks in its gullet. It is that very freedom that the authorities have constantly been trying to reduce, starting in 1991. The ban on the Communist Party, the closure of newspapers, the coup d'etat, contempt for elected organs of the people's representation, an executive branch out of control, the unwillingness to live according to the law — this is just the "pick" of the bunch.

Human rights and political freedoms do not exist exclusively thanks to the hourly resistance of the people's-patriotic opposition. Today democracy is standing on its head, or rather on its ears. Let us get to our feet!

We will go not back to the past but into the future.

In doing so what will we rely on? Not on concentration camps, first created by the British during the Boer War, not on the labor of prisoners in the same British workhouses, not on coupons, invented in Germany during World War I, not on U.S. slave ownership, and not on our own serfdom.

Nor do we need an "Iron Curtain" — Churchill's 1946 invention.

We will rely on modern culture, science, and technology. We will rely on the experience of the collectivist, communal organization of life. On Russian and Soviet traditions. The best world practice, on all the best things in world practice. We will rely on people's ineradicable striving for peace, good, and justice.

We are all interested in a peaceful, democratic solution to the problems facing the country. That is why we are suggesting that all branches of power get around the negotiating table now to sign an agreement whose essence is that an honest, democratic election must take place and that the people's choice will be accepted and implemented unconditionally by everybody. The people's will is sacrosanct.

Nobody, irrespective of the election outcome, will be persecuted either for political or for ideological reasons. We propose that, in order to avoid the falsifications of which Nikolay Ryabov so often speaks, the Central Electoral Commission issue every observer with a copy of the returns — and the question of falsifications from whatever quarter will be eliminated once and for all.

WE DO NOT JUST PROMISE — WE ACT.

And we will continue to act competently, harmoniously, and confidently, whatever the circumstances.

Our strategy is for the majority, born of the majority's mandates, it meets the aspirations of the majority, and it is designed to be implemented by the majority.

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The people's-patriotic bloc is open to new ideas and people.

We are ready for a frank dialogue, an honest debate, and for businesslike cooperation with everybody who has a burning love for his country. **I believe that the vast majority of people in our Russia are like this.**

We extend the hand of friendship and call into our ranks those who advocate and are ready to fight:

For peace and against civil war!

For honest endeavor and against parasites!

For law and order and against tyranny and violence!

For friendship and fraternity among peoples and against hatred and malice!

For truth and purity and against lies and depravity!

For the power of the people!

For the honor and dignity of the Russian state!

Long live Russia, the Motherland, and the People!

Russia: Zhirinovskiy Angles for Prime Minister Spot

LD1106165496 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 11 Jun 96

[From the "Segodnya" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having accused a presidential aide of wrecking his meeting with Boris Yeltsin, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy stated that the present head of state on 16 June would occupy only third place and the chairman of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation — Gennadiy Zyuganov] and the leader of the liberal democrats would go through to a second round. If that does not happen and if it is Yeltsin and Zyuganov who battle for supreme power in Russia, Zhirinovskiy will try to ensure that it is bad for them both.

[Begin Vladimir Zhirinovskiy recording — shown at news conference] Our ballot paper has a final section: I vote against all! My supporters will put their cross there because both Yeltsin and Zyuganov are a catastrophe! Only one thing will save us — the anti-Americanism of Western Europe. [end recording]

Incidentally, a few hours after his press conference, the leader of the liberal democrats in an interview to CNN made it clear that in certain circumstances he was ready to renounce the no-hope position of a political misanthrope and even said which of the candidates attracted him most.

[Begin recording] [Zhirinovskiy] The communists have come to realize their mistakes. Therefore they are the lesser evil today in comparison with Yeltsin.

[Correspondent Sergey Dorenko] Is that pure altruism or does the question have a price?

[Zhirinovskiy] That is purely for the sake of Russia's interests, for the sake of the interests of Russia.

[Dorenko] What might be your part in a Zyuganov government?

[Zhirinovskiy] If I get, let's say, up to 20 million votes, that's what I am reckoning on, I will insist on being given the post of prime minister. If I get considerably less — the post of deputy prime minister, but no less than that, that is, the post of a head of government. If he agrees I am sure that my supporters, the absolute majority of them, will obey my request to vote for him and he will win on 3 July [end recording]

Russia: Zyuganov Denies Offering Government Post to Zhirinovskiy

LD1106133096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1119 GMT 11 Jun 96

[By Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW June 11 (Itar-Tass) — Communist presidential candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov categorically denied rumours that he had offered a government portfolio to ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy in exchange for his votes in the second round of election.

"I have not promised that to him, we have not even discussed that problem", he told Tass on Tuesday.

However, Zyuganov is still eyeing alliance with other presidential hopefuls and influential bankers and businessmen.

He admitted that consultations with other candidates were being held and will continue after the first round of elections on June 16 although "some candidates are not planning to join efforts".

Zyuganov was clearly referring to the so-called "third force" candidates. Two of the three — liberal economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and hard-rule advocate Aleksandr Lebed — refused to cooperate with Zyuganov, while centrist Svyatoslav Fedorov has not yet expressed his position.

Zyuganov has proposed them to join his government of "popular trust", but said that would depend on how the candidates perform in the first round.

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"The June 16 vote will show the political weight of each of them", he said.

Zyuganov does not lose hope to win over influential bankers and businessmen, who initially called for a compromise in the so-called "letter of the 13", but later said the communist economic programme was ruinous for Russia.

Zyuganov said he was ready to meet the bankers and businessmen and to take into account "the ideas of business circles, entrepreneurs and bankers about the composition of the (coalition) government".

"I want that the (economic) programme is discussed as widely as possible", Zyuganov said.

Russia: Medvedev Says Elections 'Will Go Ahead' on Time

LD1206100196 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0910 GMT 12 Jun 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Jun (Itar-Tass) — "The elections in Russia will go ahead at the times established by law," and the Russian president "will take all the necessary measures to uphold the constitutional order, maintain discipline, and keep the peace" in the country, Sergey Medvedev, the head of state's press secretary, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today. He said the president "expresses profound condolences to the relatives and loved ones of those who were killed or suffered in Tuesday's explosion in the Moscow metro. This terrorist act, in the opinion of the head of state, has a quite specific aim — to influence the coming elections."

Russia: Communists To Place 180,000 Observers in Polling Stations

LD1106211096 Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No. 24, Jun 96 (Signed to Press 10 June 1996) p 2

[Unattributed, untitled report from the "Rumors" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] The possibility of the results being rigged is being put at 4-5 percent for a whole number of regions. But the Communists will have 180,000 observers in place. The third copy of the voting papers will be given to them, in line with the law. All the copies of these voting papers must be in Moscow by the sixth or seventh day. They will be collated and counted there ... and if the results have been rigged by Ryabov's service the Communists will make a great fuss two or three days prior to the official results being announced by the Central Electoral Committee.

Russia: Entrenched Vote Rigging Techniques Described

MM1206104296 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Jun 96 pp 1,4

[Feature prepared by Valeriy Vyzhutovich, with the assistance of I. Vandenko, A. Kislov, V. Korenev, and A. Stepovoy: "Everything in Russia Can Be Remedied — Even Election Results"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The results of the presidential election that has not yet taken place are already upsetting many contenders. While radiating overwhelming confidence of victory at rallies and on television, the candidates are just as vehement in their conviction that there are plans to rig the election results, which betrays their defeatist attitude because no race leader, on hitting the final straight, calls a press conference to talk about the quality of the time-keeping ands the fans of the winning team never holler: "Ref off!"

The closer we get to 16 June, the louder the talk about the inevitability of trickery and fixing becomes.

Viktor Ilyukhin: 'The Results of the Vote Will Not Be Legally Valid Whatever the Outcome'

Having said that, the chairman of the Duma Security Committee announced that he had prepared a protest letter addressed to the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission and that this letter cited ten instances of breaches of electoral legislation by the executive authorities.

Another Communist leader, Valentin Kuptsov, informs us that the recent consultations with Zhirinovskiy were conducted for the express purpose of "devising a mechanism for ruling out possible rigging." "We will actually be comprehensively monitoring all polling places," Kuptsov said, "and 200,000 monitors will be sent to them. Their task is to make a third copy of the returns at each commission, in order to count the votes and compare them with Central Electoral Commission figures."

Who, then, will the 200,000 Communist volunteers be monitoring? Judging by the composition of the electoral commissions, the observers from the CPRF will be looking over their own party comrades' shoulders. Here, for example, is what A. Sheykin, first secretary of Voroshilovskiy Rayon Committee [of the CPRF], said in VOLGOGRADSKAYA TRIBUNA: "The rayon and precinct commissions have been formed and approved. And most of them have a predominantly Communist membership."

From the IZVESTIYA dossier: Of the 163 members of Volgograd Oblast precinct electoral commissions

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nominated by public movements and parties, 108 are from the CPRF. In territorial commissions nine are from the CPRF, whereas only one is from, for example, "[Russia Is] Our Home."

According to the Institute of Contemporary Politics, one-third of the members of grassroots electoral commissions are communist sympathizers even though they are not officially members of the CPRF.

Given this electoral commission membership, Zyuganov and his supporters might, perhaps, give more credence to the future official election results. But the Communists' high representation in districts and precincts is making other presidential contenders suspicious and appeals are now issuing from that quarter for rigorous efforts to prevent possible rigging.

Asked by the "Opinion" service: "Do you think the 16 June presidential election will be honest or dishonest?" 29.8 percent of respondents replied: "honest"; 24.9 percent said "dishonest"; 45.3 percent did not know.

Nikolay Ryabov: 'There Are No Grounds To Suspect Electoral Commissions of Rigging'

In an IZVESTIYA interview the Central Electoral Commission chairman made a point of replying to statements by the CPRF leaders about the inevitable rigging of the election results: "The Communists have no grounds for accusing us of falsification and fixing. If they had, Zyuganov and his comrades would have sued already. But since they do not possess the facts, the Communists are lying, as ever. They say that they will overcome all the obstacles to get a third copy of the returns and conduct their own count. But this right is enshrined in the law. Why make the acquisition of a third copy of the returns an act of heroism and utmost responsibility for the election results? And how can you say that the Central Electoral Commission will declare Yeltsin the victor even before the voting is over?"

"But people in the Kremlin team and agents of other presidential candidates are also afraid of rigging. What do you have to say to them?"

"I say to them all: The election is publicly monitored. Go and monitor it yourself, no one will stop you. And do not exaggerate the power of the Central Electoral Commission. We are only creating conditions for the election, helping to record the expression of the people's wishes — that is all."

How It Is Done

Long experience of achieving a target of 99.9 percent, enriched by today's more sophisticated practice, obviously is not all that is required to guarantee "success" in elections in Russia. But it is still a lot.

Yuriy Kalmykov, district election commission (Penza) member, tells his story:

"As a member of the electoral commission I have participated in the organization of several elections. I have studied the procedure from the inside and I can definitely say that precinct electoral commissions can significantly change the voting picture. Therefore the local nomenklatura tries to keep their membership unchanged.

"First, you get actual direction from members of the precinct electoral commission. Let's say an old woman comes to the polling place and asks someone to help her work out which box to put the check mark in. The commission members, elected under Brezhnev, know their business. They not only prompt her, but help her mark the right place.

"One very effective method is to slip ballot papers into portable ballot boxes. During the 1991 presidential election I actually drove out to voters with a ballot box. According to the law, in order to be able to conduct the vote using mobile ballot boxes electoral commissions must have written applications from people who are unable to get to the polling place. As a rule, you get very few of these applications. For example, I had only 17 for 3,000 voters in the precinct.

"Yet during the 1993 elections, by which time I was a member of the district commission, when the portable boxes were opened at some precincts they were found to contain around 15 percent of the total number of ballot papers issued for voting. It turned out that administration officials had decide off their own bat to issue ballot papers in response to telephone calls rather than written applications. Obviously, no one made a record of the calls. The method is simple. They detail 'their own' people to go off with the portable ballot boxes and issue each of them with a bundle of ballot papers that have already been filled in in the appropriate way. That's all there is to it.

"I am reminded of Stalin's famous words: 'What is important is not how people vote, but who does the counting.'

"Here is one of the most effective methods of rigging the vote. The task is to ensure a particular candidate does not get in. Trusted members of the electoral commission would take pens from booths so that they had the right color of ink and then set about counting the votes, adding another check mark to undesirable ballot papers. If you are skillful enough you can ensure that it is not

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very noticeable. And if there is more than one mark the ballot paper is declared invalid."

An actual case: Mikhail Narolin was not appointed head of Lipetsk Oblast Administration — he was elected. He took up his post on 12 April 1993. But three weeks later the prosecutor's office, as a result of an appeal by one of the losing candidates, instituted criminal proceedings under article 133, which relates to penalties for forging election documents. Simultaneously with the criminal investigation civil proceedings were conducted to deem the election invalid. The following facts were established. The number of voters was understated by 6,245. Some 12,000 ballot papers were not authenticated by electoral commission members' signatures and 736 had been issued without receipts. Some 16,500 voters voted at home without having applied in writing. It was established that some individuals had been issued with two or three ballot papers each, and so on and so forth.

The court stated that "when the votes cast for Narolin were counted 6,061 votes out of the 262,833 votes were wrongly included in this number." And it concluded: "But the excess of 6,061 votes could not have affected the election result as a whole." So the oblast court declared the election of the Lipetsk governor to be valid.

At the trial the judge asked several members of the electoral commission to express a simple opinion: Why did Narolin win the election, and not someone else? The question had no significance in terms of assessing the evidence and it did not have any legal consequences. It was clear that the judge was interested simply as a human being rather than as a judge.

"Well, Mikhail Tikhonovich is a well-known and respected man."

"But what did we know about the other candidates."

"He builds roads, he brought gas to the village."

"If not him, then who?"

These were the answers given by milkmaids, machine operators, and mailmen, who had gotten into this diabolical electoral commission by some mischance and, before they knew it, found themselves in court.

How many of them are there in Lipetsk Oblast, how many of them are there in Russia, these dead tired people, a thousand times deceived, but still believing that someone will come to help get them out of trouble. Life is such that if a village woman is given two sacks of grain, she will vote the way the kolkhoz chairman tells her. He, in turn, for a tonne of diesel fuel for the sowing campaign, for preferential credit, for the tiniest subsidy, will stuff not only handfuls of bogus ballot papers in the ballot box, but anything he is told to.

A precinct electoral commission veteran (from Moscow) who wished to remain anonymous tells his story:

"Rigging is possibly primarily at the precinct electoral commission level. The secretary is a very import figure and practically no fixing can take place without his knowledge.

"One of the most common methods of rigging the vote is substitute ballot papers. For this you need a certain quantity of extra, unrecorded ballot papers. There are several ways of acquiring them. First and foremost, you can have an agreement with someone in the printing plant where the ballot papers are printed, to the effect that he will print an extra batch. Moreover, you can try to obtain from the printing works some reject ballot papers, which by law must be destroyed. Finally, you can simply order an extra batch from another printer.

"So the secretary, or someone he trusts, has the spare ballot papers. How does the substitution taker place? The first method is to actually remove a ballot paper from the box and replace it. Usually this happens as follows: In the afternoon you choose a moment when the stream of voters has diminished somewhat, and then the commission secretary suggests to the members that they go and eat. Only a few trusted people remain in the room where the voting takes place. Then the substitution can take place. One of the two ballot boxes (that is the normal number to have in the room where the voting takes place) is carried next door and opened. This is not difficult because the seals are usually made out of modeling clay. A bunch of ballot papers is removed indiscriminately — they have to be quick! — from the now unsealed box and the ones that have been prepared beforehand are put in this place. The entire operation take seconds.

"Of course, this time observers will be there to prevent this kind of stunt. But, again, the question is will observers from opposing forces be at the same polling place or will it be the way the Communists have planned it: one observer "from Zyuganov and one each "from the people's patriotic bloc," "from the CPRF," and "from Tuleyev." That's variety for you.

"Bulletins can be substituted pretty safely and with near certainty during voting outside the polling place. There are two fine points. The people who will be driving the ballot boxes around are identified in advance, so it is usually no problem getting your own man in place. And the substitution is easy: Instead of the statutory single box there are two, that is, voters cast their votes in one, and then the counting will be done from the other, which contains the spare papers..."

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What Do the Law and the Central Electoral Commission Guarantee?

The vote rigging mechanism works like clockwork. What about the mechanism to prevent rigging?

Nikolay Ryabov:

"My colleagues, and there are now hundreds of thousands of them in the country, are daily doing all they can to make our electoral system independent and objective. We welcome and encourage observers and are introducing the institution ourselves. We are also preparing methodological material for them...."

The law "On the Russian Federation Presidential Election" provides no more guarantees of fair play than its custodian, the Central Electoral Commission: "The Central Electoral Commission will deem the election invalid if the breaches of this federal law committed during the election prevent one from reliably establishing the results of the expression of the voters' wishes."

What does this mean? How many thousands or millions of votes need to be falsified for the election to be declared invalid? The law craftily avoids this issue. The absence of a criterion drawing a distinction between a valid and an invalid result gives anyone wanting it total freedom to edit the results of the vote in accordance with his political taste. Therefore the "irremediable choice," which the current presidential candidates vie with one another in warning against, with Yeltsin, Zyuganov, or Zhirinovskiy as the bugbear, is not a threat Russia faces. Anything here can be remedied, unfortunately.

Russia: Betaneli Poll Gives Yeltsin 40 Percent, Zyuganov 31 Percent

LD1106140496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 11 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin and leader of the Communist Party Gennadiy Zyuganov are sure to face each other in a second round of elections, according to the latest information released to the press Tuesday by the sociological institute headed by Nugzar Betaneli.

Betaneli's institute was the only one to predict correctly the victory in the State Duma in December 1995 for Zyuganov and the runner-up position for Liberal Democrat leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, he said.

According to the latest information, 40 percent of voters will support Yeltsin and 31 percent Zyuganov, said Betaneli.

Answering reporters' questions on reasons for the unexpectedly high rise of Yeltsin's rating, which early in March was 28 percent, the sociologist explained that "political convictions in Russia are still unstable, there are only political sentiments, which can change dramatically under different circumstances."

Yeltsin's recent steps, including his trip to Chechnya, "have added much to his popularity and to the necessary percentage, which may ensure the presidency for Yeltsin," Betaneli said.

Zyuganov's rating could be higher if "he had access to the national media." However, Communist supporters compensate for this by "powerful campaign support in the provinces," said Betaneli, and added that "this can't be said about Yeltsin's supporters."

Commenting on the chances of other contenders, Betaneli said that Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy will emerge third. He will, possibly, share third position with retired General Aleksandr Lebed who, Betaneli said, "has a very high potential, but joined the race too late."

Betaneli does not rule out a possible coalition for the presidency after the first round. "The losers will think about the future," he explained. "If Yeltsin wins the presidency, he cannot seek re-election for a third term, according to the constitution," said Betaneli.

Russia: 'TeleUtro' Program Cites Polls Showing Yeltsin in Lead

OW1106055696 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1800 GMT 10 Jun 96

[Report by Aleksy Brodskiy; from the "Preelection Chronicle" feature of the "TeleUtro" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] On 9 June I promised that today I would acquaint you with the latest sociological polls data. The Center for Strategic Analysis and Forecasts gives first place to the incumbent president. Using a 10-point scale, his expert rating comes to 9.16. In second place is Gennadiy Zyuganov with a 8.61 rating. In third place is Vladimir Zhirinovskiy with a 6.72 rating. The center notes that of the three named candidates, only Boris Yeltsin's rating has grown over the past 10 days.

The independent sociological agency Intermedia Plus has carried out a study of the mood of voters in 54 regions of Russia. A total of 5,700 people were polled. The results were as follows: 30.5 percent of those who plan to vote prefer Boris Yeltsin and 21.6 percent prefer Zyuganov. What is interesting is that Aleksandr Lebed came in third, down only half a percent from the communists' leader. [passage omitted]

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Russia: Polls Summarize Regional Voting Intentions
MM1106134796

[FBIS Report] Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 11 June 1996 carries on pages two and three a full two-page unattributed "Express-Poll" feature under the heading "Voices of the New Russia" consisting of the reported vox pop statements of citizens throughout Russia. Most statements are followed by a boxed statistical summary indicating the voting intentions of a particular part of Russia as follows:

St. Petersburg: "Of 100 people polled 37 percent of voters will not vote. Some 49.2 percent will vote for Yeltsin, 19.1 percent for Yavlinskiy, 11.1 percent for Zyuganov, and 6.2 percent each for Zhirinovskiy and Fedorov."

Novgorod: "Of 110 people polled 51 percent will vote for Zyuganov, 42 percent for Yeltsin. The remaining votes are distributed between Lebed and Bryntsalov. Of those polled 5 percent have not yet made up their minds."

Voronezh: "Of 100 Voronezh people polled 30 percent are for Zyuganov, 20 percent for Yeltsin, 17 percent for Yavlinskiy, 13 percent for Zhirinovskiy, and 4 percent for Gorbachev."

Rostov-na-Donu: "Of 100 people polled 98 will go to vote. Of these 41 percent will vote for Yeltsin, 11 percent for Zyuganov, 15 percent for Yavlinskiy, 5 percent for Zhirinovskiy, and 2 percent for Lebed."

Orel Oblast: "Of 113 inhabitants of the center polled 46 percent are for Yeltsin, 29.2 percent for Zyuganov, 12.4 percent for Yavlinskiy, and 11.5 percent for Zhirinovskiy."

Nazran: "Of 100 people polled in the North Caucasus region 25 percent will vote for Yeltsin, 22 percent for Zyuganov, 16 percent for Lebed, 4 percent for Zhirinovskiy, and 5 percent for Fedorov."

Nizhniy Novgorod: "Of the 100 people polled 76 percent will go to vote and 15 percent have not yet made up their minds. Only 6.6 percent will not vote. Some 25 percent are for Yeltsin, 23 percent for Zyuganov, 8 percent for Yavlinskiy, 6 percent for Zhirinovskiy, and 6 percent for Lebed."

Orenburg: "The sympathies of the 100 Orenburg people polled were divided as follows: for Zyuganov 35 percent, for Yeltsin 30 percent, for Lebed 7 percent, for Yavlinskiy 7 percent, and for Zhirinovskiy 6 percent."

Yekaterinburg: "Of 100 Yekaterinburg people polled 56 percent will vote for Yeltsin, 12 percent for Lebed, and 9 percent for Zyuganov."

Omsk: "Of 100 people polled two will not take part in the elections. Some 27 percent will vote for Zyuganov, 26 percent for Yeltsin, 14 percent for Yavlinskiy, 6 percent for Zhirinovskiy, 4 percent for Lebed. Fedorov has two supporters and Gorbachev one. The others have not yet made up their minds."

Novosibirsk: "Of 100 people polled 81 percent will vote with 27 percent voting for Yeltsin, 26 percent for Zyuganov, 11 percent for Yavlinskiy, 4 percent for Tuleyev, and 4 percent for Zhirinovskiy."

Ulan-Ude: "Of 100 people polled 48 percent will vote for Yeltsin, 9 percent for Zyuganov, 5 percent for Yavlinskiy, 1 percent for Tuleyev. The proportion who have not yet made up their minds is 37 percent."

Republic of Sakha: "Of 100 people polled 36 percent will vote for Zyuganov and 35 percent for Yeltsin, while 7 percent will vote for Lebed and 6 percent each for Zhirinovskiy and Yavlinskiy."

Khabarovsk: "Of 100 people polled 39 percent will vote for Yeltsin while Zyuganov and Yavlinskiy each have 16 percent and Zhirinovskiy 4 percent and Lebed 3 percent."

The feature, which also includes vox pop statements but no poll reports from Moscow, Moscow Oblast, and the Republic of Komi, concludes with the following comment:

"What do the figures say? A lot. Of the 1,723 people polled 1,574 (91.4 percent) said they would take part in the voting. So that we can predict the highest political activity on the part of voters in all the years of reforms. Here is who the inhabitants of the regions who intend to vote prefer: Some 37.7 percent are for B. Yeltsin, 28.5 percent for G. Zyuganov, 10.1 percent for G. Yavlinskiy, 5.6 percent for V. Zhirinovskiy, and 5.3 percent for Lebed. All the other candidates account for 13.2 percent of voters."

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CIS: Landmark Kislovodsk Declaration Extolled

MM1106151896 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Jun 96 p 5

[Commentary by Vladimir Kuznechevskiy: "Kislovodsk Landmark" — from the "Economic Union" section]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Declaration of the leaders of the Transcaucasian states and Boris Yeltsin that is published today has provoked a contradictory reaction. Participants in the meeting — not just those who signed the document, but also those who took part in the meeting (and these were the heads of 12 Russian Federation components bordering on the Caucasus) — concur in their assessment of the meeting as "historic," since "it laid the foundations for a new democratic tradition in relations between Russia and the Caucasus."

These words belong to such different people as the presidents of Georgia and the Russian Republic of North Ossetia. And yet only quite recently Georgian and Ossetian leaders were in extremely difficult relations with one another. When armed Georgian extremists — put simply, bandits — were robbing the civilian population of South Ossetia with impunity, only the peacemaking intervention of Russia saved the inhabitants of that autonomous entity from genocide and helped Eduard Shevardnadze to guide the conflict into a peaceful channel.

The Kislovodsk meeting is rated almost as highly by the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, who for virtually the first time were given an opportunity calmly and peacefully to exchange businesslike ideas on the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh in the limited confines of a single room. Here too the peacekeeping role of Russia proved more influential than that of the other countries and international organizations that had tried long and insufficiently effectively to resolve this problem on their own, without Moscow.

The Kislovodsk meeting, it seems to me, became possible and effective above all for a single, but central, reason: Having spent five years wandering around clutching their sovereignty, toting it before every foreign state and international organization, the heads of state of the Greater Caucasus discovered that there is no other country but Russia that unites the interests of all the Caucasian states, nor is any such other country envisaged in the near future, or even at some more remote time. Indeed, it is very difficult to imagine that such an impressive forum could hold a session in some Caucasian city so peacefully under the aegis of, say, Turkey or the United States....

This is why the Caucasian heads of the state signed with an easy conscience and without long discussion a declaration that speaks directly of the preeminence of Russia's peacekeeping mission in the Caucasus.

At the same time, Moscow newspapers, although they too note the aforesaid significance of the Kislovodsk meeting, nevertheless put their main emphasis on the fact that it was dictated by Boris Yeltsin's election considerations. In so doing they refer to the appeal of the leaders of the republics, krays, and oblasts of the North Caucasus in support of Boris Yeltsin that was adopted 3 June in Kislovodsk.

It would, of course, be wrong to deny the perfectly obvious fact that Boris Yeltsin is seeking to exploit any public action that he carries out in the interests of his election campaign. That is a fact, and it impossible not to see it.

All the same, we should separate the wheat from the chaff. You need to be someone who is absolutely remote from politics not to notice that the main aim of the Kislovodsk meeting is by no means dictated by the election race of one of the candidates for the Russian presidency. Say what you like, Yeltsin has very accurately caught the political moment to launch Russia into the Caucasian orbit under new conditions. The past five years have in the final analysis created the necessary favorable political atmosphere for Russia's "intervention" in the Caucasus, and the Caucasian heads of state have received this with approval. The only thing that they expected as their due was that Russia should again and again confirm its respect for their full autonomy and sovereignty. This is exactly what they heard from the Russian president.

As for the election aspect, after Kislovodsk it can be confidently stated that the Caucasian heads of state look upon their relations with Moscow from a far larger historical perspective. They would like to see after Kislovodsk the beginning of a new phase or even a new era of positive cooperation with Russia. And in this context the presidential elections in Russia are for them only an episode. After all, the Russian president is elected for five years, but Russia must live together with the Caucasus for centuries.

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Russia: WEU's Cutileiro Affirms Reliance on NATO, United States

MM1106150296 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jun 96 p 7

[Report by Stanislav Kucher: "Russia Is Europe's Friend, but America Is More Badly Needed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jose Cutileiro, secretary general of the Western European Union [WEU], has visited Moscow for the first time in the almost two years that he has been in office. This was a purely formal visit, and the offers made by Cutileiro — like the promise that "The WEU and Russia will probably take part in a joint peacekeeping operation at some point in time" — sounded strictly hypothetical.

Essentially, the main idea running through the secretary general's conversation with your correspondent boils down to the following: Just like in the past, Russia is being assigned a secondary, not to say incidental, role in the structure not only of West European but also of pan-European security. There can be no argument that role of key guarantor of stability in the region ought to be played by NATO and the United States.

My pessimism was enhanced by the secretary general's reply to a question about the present, post-Soviet relations between the WEU and the United States.

"Questions concerning the collective defense of WEU member countries will, just as in the past, be decided by NATO. At times the leading role is taken on by a stronger power. Now this is the United States. Our relations with NATO have always been good, and now they are getting increasingly stronger and broader."

Mr. Cutileiro remembered Russia only when a colleague of mine asked him about it. Here is the essence of his answer: Yes, everything is possible in principle, including cooperation with Russia. Like, for example, in the form of Russia's participation in the peacekeeping operation in Yugoslavia. Let me translate this into Russian: We will be able to participate in any operation we like, but we can exercise only the rights of a "consulted side" when determining its objectives, tasks, and methods of implementation. Provided, of course, our advice is heeded by those on whom the decision depends. In other words NATO and WEU members. For the time being, Russia can only look forward to the prospects of the modest status of observer with the WEU. Which, in its own turn, has been and will remain in the shadow of NATO, which is so unloved by us.

Russia: Foreign Ministry 'Satisfied' With OSCE Work in Chechnya

LD1106132496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1213 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 11 (Interfax) — Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing in Moscow Tuesday they are basically satisfied with the work of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] mission in Chechnya and its efforts to help peaceful settlement of the Chechen crisis through negotiations.

The mission is staying in Chechnya on the instruction of the OSCE, of which Russia is a full-fledged member, said Karasin.

"The goals and conditions of the mission work and its membership are coordinated with the Russian government," he added.

The key principle of the mission is respect to territorial integrity of Russia and its constitution, said the spokesman.

The statement followed accusations brought by the Chechen government of Doku Zavgayev against mission head Tim Guldiman. They claimed he participated in "unauthorized and, sometimes, provocative arrangements held by persons announced guilty of crimes in accordance with Russian laws."

According to unconfirmed reports, Groznyy plans to appeal to Moscow for announcing Guldimann persona non grata. This issue is expected to be discussed at a meeting of Guldimann and Chechen Prime Minister Nikolay Koshman later today in Groznyy.

Russia: AFP Reports on 'Bomb' Attack on Chechen Negotiators

AU1106160396 Paris AFP in English 1548 GMT 11 Jun 96

[by Nikolai Topouria]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Novy Atagi, Russia, June 11 (AFP) — Chechen rebel negotiators and international mediators survived a series of bomb blasts targeting their convoy Tuesday only a day after a peace accord was signed with the Russians.

Seven people were wounded, two of them seriously, in the blasts near the Chechen capital Groznyy, Chechen rebel spokesman Movladi Udugov and Shervani Basayev, a rebel military commander, told reporters.

There were no wounded among the delegation from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

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(OSCE) accompanying the rebel negotiators, INTERFAX news agency reported, quoting an OSCE official.

An AFP correspondent travelling in the convoy said he heard three bomb blasts as the vehicles were passing through the Achkhoi Martan region, just west of Groznyy, then two more as the convoy was crossing a bridge on the outskirts of the devastated city.

The wounded included bodyguards accompanying the Chechen negotiators, a Russian escorting them, and at least one civilian — an elderly man who was cutting grass by the side of the road, the AFP correspondent said.

Several vehicles were lightly damaged.

Udugov, who was in the convoy, said the blasts were caused by remote-controlled mines.

The rebels pinned the blame for the attack on Oleg Lobov, President Boris Yeltsin's special representative in Chechnya, and Moscow-installed Chechen leader Doku Zavgayev.

"The first step in torpedoing the Nazran accords has been taken," Udugov said in Novy Atagi, about 30 kilometres (20 miles) south of Groznyy.

The attack fuelled fears that a peace accord reached Monday to end the 18-month war would be sabotaged.

It was signed by Russian Nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhailov and Chechen rebel chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov.

Under the accord, signed less than a week from the first round of Russia's presidential elections, nearly all the approximately 41,000 Russian troops in Chechnya are to pull out by August 31, along with rebel "demilitarisation."

Free elections witnessed by international observers would then be held, although the rebels' main war aim, independence from Russia, was not addressed. [passage omitted]

Russia: Primakov Tells Contact Group Sanctions on FRY Must Be Lifted

LD1106135996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 11 (Interfax) — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov told the early June meeting of the Contact Group on Bosnia, consisting of Russia, the United States, France, Britain and Germany, that international sanctions against Yugoslavia have to be lifted before their term expires.

This step would strengthen the hand of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic "whose constructive efforts have become a major factor in the positive development of the Dayton peace process," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing in Moscow Tuesday.

Karasin said that other member nations of the contact group seem to "be departing gradually from the unjustified and counter- productive idea of resuming the sanctions under some pretext."

"Even the failure to extradite [Bosnian Serb leader Radovan] Karadzic to the Hague tribunal is incomparably less significant than the priority goal of having elections held in Bosnia," he said.

Russia: TANJUG Reports Gazprom Deal With FRY Companies

LD1106210096 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1838 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11th Jun (TANJUG) — A Serbian-Russian joint stock company for the delivery, receipt, and sale of two and a half times the quantity of Russian natural gas in Serbia than hitherto was given its legal framework with the signing today of documents at Gazprom in Moscow.

Gazprom is the world's largest company for the exploitation and sale of natural gas. When the new gas pipeline is completed, it will supply 7-8 billion cubic meters of gas annually to Serbia.

The new gas pipeline will be constructed from the Yugoslav-Bulgarian border in the region of Dimitrovgrad, via Nis to Pojate in the first phase, and later on to Leskovac, Vranje, and finally to Pristina.

Its construction, as well as the delivery, receipt, and sale of gas will be managed by a joint company which is being formed as a joint stock company with equal capital investment.

On the Russian side is Gazprom, while in Serbia the members of the joint stock company will be Progres, Progresgas-trading, NIS, Beobanka, and Sartid.

The new gas pipeline will link up with the one which enters Yugoslavia from Hungary and will thus create a ring which will serve as a very reliable way of supplying Serbia with Russian natural gas.

It is expected that in the future other countries can also link up to this gas pipeline.

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Russia: Primakov Contacts Mideast Leaders on Peace Process

LD1106135396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1254 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 11 (Interfax) — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov on instructions from the Russian president has held a series of telephone conversations with Middle East leaders and foreign ministers in the past few days. These include Head of the Palestinian Administration Yasir 'Arafat, Foreign Ministers of Egypt and Syria Amr Musa and Faruq al-Shar', Crown Prince Hasan of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu.

The substance of these conversations is that there should be no pause in the Middle East peace process, and the negotiating process between Israel and Arab states should continue in a constructive way, Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing in Moscow on Tuesday.

He quoted Primakov as saying Russia was acting as a co-chairman of the Madrid conference for Middle East peace.

Karasin said all of those with whom Primakov spoke had reaffirmed, albeit with minor differences, their interest in the continuance of the regional peace process and hailed Moscow's peace efforts in the Middle East. He said the new Israeli leader spoke of being willing to resume talks with the Palestinians and the Syrians once a new government is formed. Karasin said the Arabs are keen to nudge the peace process forward if Netanyahu displays a constructive approach.

He said the Egyptian minister stressed the significance of a two-day Arab summit opening in Cairo on June 21.

Russia: Iraqi Embassy Reveals Approach to Oil Companies

MM1106135896 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jun 96

["Own Information" report: "Iraq Sends Signal" — from the "Business Tuesday" section p 3]

[FBIS Translated Text] The editorial office received a curious announcement from the Iraqi Embassy in Moscow. Iraqi Embassy Press Attache Karim Salim Murdata informed it that a spokesman for Iraq's Northern Oil company had announced the completion of preparations to resume Iraqi oil exports via the Iraq-Turkey oil pipelines in the north and the strategic line in the south. So Iraq is ready to resume oil exports to the international market via the Turkish port of Ceyhan within the next few days.

Iraqi Oil Minister 'Amir Muhammad Rashid confirmed that his country will resume exports of 330,000 barrels via the port of Al-Bakr on the Arabian (Persian) Gulf and 440,000-450,000 barrels via the Turkish port of Ceyhan. Iraq has approached 56 well-known international companies and has already gotten a response from 20 of them. Iraq will primarily cooperate with those which, according to the embassy press attache, "have a sound reputation" and have shown solidarity with the Iraqi people in their sufferings caused by the unjust blockade.

In other words Iraq is sending another signal to the major oil companies regarding its readiness to cooperate. Meanwhile the UN trade embargo on Iraq remains in force.

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Political Issues

Russia: Three Killed, Seven Injured in Moscow Subway Explosion

LD1106191596 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Jun 96

[Announcer read, no video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Three people were killed and seven injured as a result of an explosion in the Moscow subway. The blast occurred a few hours ago between Tulskaya and Nagatinskaya stations. One carriage is a heap of scrap metal. The carriages are now being disconnected. The reason for the blast is not yet known. It is also unknown if trains will travel along the Serpukhovskaya line in the Tulskaya-Nagatinskaya area tomorrow. For a report from the scene tune in tomorrow at 0700 [0300 GMT].

Russia: Yeltsin Condemns 'Brutal and Barbaric' Metro Bomb Blast

LD1206091196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0859 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 12 (Itar-Tass) — President Boris Yeltsin described the explosion in the Moscow metro as "a brutal and barbaric action" aimed at "destabilising the situation in the capital and at creating an atmosphere of uncertainty and fear in Russia" on the eve of the elections.

"Masterminds of the crime against peaceful and innocent people, including women and children, will be severely punished," says a telegramme sent by the Russian leader to Moscow residents on Wednesday [12 June].

Russia: Yeltsin Decides Not To Cancel 12 Jun Rally

LD1206085596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0753 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 12 (Interfax) — Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov has reported on the explosion in the Moscow metro, which killed four people and wounded 12 Tuesday evening, to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The mayor told a news conference Wednesday the president decided not to cancel the rally in Moscow's Vasilyevskiy Spusk tonight, which is expected to be attended by several hundreds of thousands of Muscovites.

The rally of the popular-patriotic opposition, authorized by the Moscow government and scheduled for June 12, will not be cancelled as well, said the mayor.

Bearing in mind the attempted murder of candidate to Moscow vice-mayor Valeriy Shantsev and the metro explosion, the mayor urged correspondents against "stirring up hysteria as regards even the radical-opposition parties, including the Russian Communist Workers' Party of Viktor Anpilov, and act only in accordance with the law."

Speaking of possible involvement of Chechen separatists in the terrorist act, Luzhkov said "only the investigation can give an answer." He urged correspondents against seeing a "Chechen aspect" in all extreme events.

Luzhkov described the explosion as "a wild terrorist act" and promised to do his best to ensure safety of Muscovites. He said, however, "it is very hard to guarantee 100 percent the protection of residents of the huge megalopolis from terrorism."

Safety measures have been toughened in the city, including the metro, stressed the mayor.

Head of the Moscow metro Dmitriy Gayev told the news conference 40 percent of metro trains are being accompanied by police officers.

Over 400 staffers of the law enforcement bodies are on duty at metro stations.

Metro trains are regularly checked at all the terminal stations, in repairs depots and at parking spaces, said Gayev. Six emergencies have been prevented in the metro, including inflammation of electric wires and train casings, he added.

Russia: Mayor Luzhkov Interviewed on Moscow Metro Explosion

LD1206095396 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0400 GMT 12 Jun 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Unfortunately, today we have to start our cast with news that is far from festive. An explosion occurred on Tuesday, at 2115, on a stretch of track between two stations of the capital's subway. Last night, our camera crew went to the scene of the incident. Here are the details in a report by Anna Fedotova.

[Video shows uniformed men, some wearing firemen's helmets; an ambulance and other vehicles; people outside a metro station].

[Fedotova] According to preliminary information, four people died and 11 were injured. Witnesses say that the shock wave was so powerful that the window panes in the two adjacent carriages were completely shattered. Clouds of smoke began to rise. Fire experts think that the power of the explosive device was equivalent to 500 grams of TNT.

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During the first few hours after the incident, it was impossible to obtain any reliable information about what had happened. The relatives of those who used that ill-starred line last night and did not return home at the usual time travelled to Tulskaya metro station from different parts of the city.

[Unidentified woman] Nothing is known. No documents. My son had a document on him. He has a serviceman's identity card.

[Fedotova] Rescue work continued in the cordoned-off tunnel. Journalists awaited the appearance of Moscow's Mayor Luzhkov, who was conducting an emergency meeting with the leaders of the Ministry of Civil Defense, Emergencies and Natural Disasters, the Federal Security Service, and the Protection Directorate right there, at the scene of the incident, and who rejected persistent requests from the special services not to comment on what had happened before the final outcome was known.

[Luzhkov] The news so far is as follows: it was a terrorist act. An uncased device was exploded, probably planted under a seat, in the place where the train's control system is located. So far, as of this moment, 16 people have suffered, two women and a man are below, dead, and one man died at the Sklifosovskiy Institute. Of the 16 people, there are eight women and one child, a child of four.

[Fedotova] Yuriy Luzhkov thinks that a terrorist act of this kind has a clearly marked political purpose. The mayor stated that what had happened was directly connected with the recent attempt on the life of Valeriy Shantsev and with the fortunately abortive preparations near the ring road.

[Luzhkov] I don't think it is connected with Chechnya. I don't think so. I think it is connected with the elections. It's against me, it's against the president. It is a succession of measures to cause chaos in the preelectoral arrangements up to 16 June, and I cannot give any other assessment of these events.

[Announcer] The staff of the law-enforcement bodies appeal to all witnesses who were travelling last night toward Nagatino in the third carriage from the end of the train to provide any, even the most insignificant, details of the incident, by telephone to 281-64- 23 or 222-71-94, or by fax to 280-94-09.

Russia: FSB Calls Moscow Explosion 'Politically-Motivated' Act

LD1206090496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0830 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 12 (Interfax) — The Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) has qualified the explosion in the Moscow metro on Tuesday evening as "a politically-motivated terrorist act." In a statement passed to Interfax Wednesday, Acting head of the Public Relations Center Aleksandr Zdanovich says that the FSB and the Interior Ministry had made this conclusion on the basis of the available facts.

The crime was committed on the eve of the Independence Day and elections of the Russian president and mayor of Moscow. Moreover, the type of the explosive device and its planting in a metro train suggest that the organizers of the explosion counted on a heavy loss of life.

He announced that the Moscow Prosecutor's Office had initiated criminal proceedings in connection with the explosion and that the FSB and the Interior Ministry are looking for the people "who have committed this barbaric crime."

He said that the law-enforcement bodies have taken additional measures to guard the Moscow metro. He also noted that the FSB counts on the assistance of Muscovites.

The FSB is urging all those who have any information about the crime to inform the FSB's Moscow Department through contact telephone: 925-28-19.

He also urged the citizens to be attentive and vigilant.

According to the FSB, as a result of the explosion in the Moscow metro between the stations Nagatinskaya and Tulskaya at 9:10 p.m. Tuesday, three people, including two women, died right on the scene of the explosion. The forth man died in hospital. Twelve people, among them a four year-old girl, received injuries.

Russia: Chechen Government Denies Involvement in Explosions

LD1206103396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0954 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, June 12 (Interfax) — The Chechen government has refuted press reports on its involvement in explosions which occurred during the return of the separatist delegation from Nazran talks with the federal representatives on June 11.

A statement of the Chechen government, received by Interfax Wednesday, says these reports are "another

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provocation" which aims to break the inter-Chechen dialogue and elections of the Chechen parliament.

"Such methods of settling political problems are characteristic of illegal armed units, not the authorities of the Chechen Republic," says the document signed by Chechen Prime Minister Nikolay Koshman.

The Chechen government welcomes the agreements on immediate termination of combat operations, disarmament of illegal units, liberation of hostages and withdrawal of federal troops reached in Moscow and Nazran, says the statement.

Russia: Yeltsin Signs Edict on Executive Discipline

MM1206082996 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jun 96 p 3

[Russian Federation president's edict No. 810, signed by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow, the Kremlin, on 6 June 1996: "On Measures To Strengthen Discipline in the System of State Service"; carried under the headline "A Presidential Tale About Laws and Edicts: Officials Should Implement Them Out, Those Who Do Not Should Be Driven Out"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The formation of the new Russian state system is often slowed down as a result of poor executive discipline and irresponsibility by officials and staff of federal organs of executive power, the organs of state power of the components of the Russian Federation, and organs of local self-government which lead to the violation or nonexecution of federal laws, Russian Federation presidential edicts, and court rulings.

The violations, nonexecution, or improper execution of federal laws and Russian Federation presidential edicts mostly take the form of violations of the procedure governing the implementation of the norms and schedules for the execution of instructions, the establishment of procedures for the exercise of citizens' rights not envisaged by federal laws and Russian Federation presidential edicts, and the incomplete fulfillment of norms and instructions or the distortion of their content.

Inaction by officials or the absence of instructions regarding the execution of federal laws and Russian Federation presidential edicts cannot serve as justification.

The nonexecution of federal laws, Russian Federation presidential edicts, and court rulings not only discredits the state authorities and creates conditions for corruption and abuse but also violates citizens' rights and freedoms and undermines the foundations of Russia's constitutional system.

To ensure executive discipline in the system of state service and in accordance with Article 80 of the Russian Federation Constitution, I decree that:

1. It is prescribed that the following constitute a single gross violation of discipline in the state service system entailing the application of disciplinary measures up to and including dismissal against culpable officials and workers of the federal executive organs and executive organs of the components of the Russian Federation:

the violation of federal laws and Russian Federation presidential edicts;

the nonexecution or improper execution of federal laws, Russian Federation presidential edicts, or court rulings which have come into legal force.

2. Violations by officials of the federal executive organs and the executive organs of the components of the Russian Federation of federal laws and Russian Federation presidential edicts or nonexecution or improper execution of federal laws, Russian Federation presidential edicts, or court rulings which have come into legal force, resulting in the disruption of the normal functioning of the courts and the system of state administration or other serious consequences, which have been committed deliberately shall be grounds for instituting administrative or criminal proceedings against the culprits in accordance with Russian Federation law.

3. Leaders of the federal executive organs and heads of the executive of the components of the Russian Federation shall be held personally responsible for the state of executive discipline in the corresponding federal executive organs and executive organs of the components of the Russian Federation.

Leaders of federal executive organs and heads of the executive of the components of the Russian Federation must:

examine within three days any reports published in the mass media, including television and radio broadcasts, on violations of federal laws and Russian Federation presidential edicts by subordinate officials and workers of the federal executive organs and executive organs of the components of the Russian Federation or on nonexecution or improper execution by the aforementioned state employees of federal laws, Russian Federation presidential edicts, or court rulings which have come into legal force;

within two weeks of publication, the results of the examination of reports of violations of federal laws and Russian Federation presidential edicts by subordinate officials or workers of the federal executive organs and

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executive organs of the components of the Russian Federation or nonexecution or improper execution by the aforementioned state employees of federal laws, Russian Federation presidential edicts, or court rulings which have come into legal force are to be sent to the corresponding mass media. Copies of the materials on the examination of the aforementioned mass media reports are to be sent to the Russian Federation President's Main Control Administration;

if the examination of the aforementioned reports concerning subordinate officials of the federal executive organs and executive organs of the components of the Russian Federation reveals consequences in the form of disruption of the normal functioning of the courts and of the system of state administration, other serious consequences, or the deliberate violation of federal laws or Russian Federation presidential edicts or the nonexecution or improper execution of federal laws, Russian Federation presidential edicts, or court rulings which have come into legal force, the materials are to be sent to the Prosecutor's Office organs.

4. It is prescribed that officials and workers of the federal executive organs and executive organs of the components of the Russian Federation who have been disciplined for violation of federal laws and Russian Federation presidential edicts or for the nonexecution or improper execution of federal laws, Russian Federation presidential edicts, or court rulings which have come into legal force shall be debarred for one year from the receipt of bonuses, recommendation for state awards (except for the display of courage in a fire, when saving drowning people, in the protection of law and order, or in combat action conditions) and marks of distinction, promotion or advancement to the next skill category (class ranks or military or special title).

Officials and workers of the federal executive organs and executive organs of the components of the Russian Federation who have violated federal laws and Russian Federation presidential edicts or have failed to execute federal laws, Russian Federation presidential edicts, or court rulings which have come into legal force or have executed them improperly may have to submit themselves to early reassessment, be demoted (in class rank or military or special title), or be deprived of a skill category (class rank or military or special title).

5. The Russian Federation President's official representatives in the components of the Russian Federation, in conjunction with the Prosecutor's Office organs, are to:

monitor the observance of federal laws and Russian Federation presidential edicts by the territorial organs of the federal executive organs and executive organs of the components of the Russian Federation;

within three days convey to the leaders of the federal executive organs and heads of the executive of the components of the Russian Federation as well as of the Russian Federation President's Main Control Administration information on the exposure of cases of violations of federal laws and Russian Federation presidential edicts or the nonexecution or improper execution of federal laws, Russian Federation presidential edicts, or court rulings which have come into legal force.

The chief of the Russian Federation President's Staff is to submit proposals on the dismissal of the Russian Federation President's official representatives in components of the Russian Federation who fail to implement the provisions of this edict.

6. The Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office and the Russian Federation President's Main Control Administration are to submit to the Russian Federation president proposals on the punishment, up to and including dismissal, of leaders of federal executive organs and heads of the executive of the components of the Russian Federation (irrespective of the procedure for their replacement) who violate federal laws or Russian Federation presidential edicts or fail to execute federal laws, Russian Federation presidential edicts, or court rulings which have come into force or who execute them improperly.

7. The Russian Federation Government is to:

complete in 1996 the elaboration of the draft Administrative Code and draft Administrative Procedural Code of the Russian Federation;

submit within one month, jointly with the Russian Federation President's Staff, proposals on improving the system for monitoring the proper execution of federal laws, Russian Federation presidential edicts, and court rulings by the federal executive organs and the executive organs of the components of the Russian Federation.

8. This edict comes into force on the day it is published.

[signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
[dated] Moscow, the Kremlin, 6 June 1996

Russia: Yeltsin Signs Edict on Central Chernozem Gas Supply Program

MM1206091996 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jun 96 p 3

[Russian Federation president's edict No. 816, signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin, in Moscow on 6 June 1996; carried under the general heading "We Will Give You Gas But Not All at Once": "On the Program for the Development of Gas Supplies in the

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Central Chernozem Region of the Russian Federation in 1996-2000" — from the 'Documents' section]

[FBIS Translated Text] With a view to developing gas supplies in the Central Chernozem Region of the Russian Federation in 1996-2000 and improving the social and everyday living conditions for citizens resident in this region, I decree that:

1. The Program for the Development of Gas Supplies to the Central Chernozem Region of the Russian Federation in 1996-2000 (hereinafter the Program) submitted by the Russian Federation Government be approved.

2. The Russian Federation Government shall:

examine and amplify in the second quarter of 1996 the sources of funding for the Program in 1996 and also include the resources for its funding in the draft federal budgets for 1997-2000;

and amplify annually the volume of work envisaged by the Program in the light of progress in its implementation.

[signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
[dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 6 June 1996

Russia: Chernomyrdin Views Chechen Peace Talks, Local Elections

LD1206120896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1148 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 12 (Interfax) — Russian Prime Minister and Chairman of the state commission on a peace settlement in Chechnya Viktor Chernomyrdin Wednesday familiarized himself with the report of the federal delegation which participated in the negotiations with representatives of Chechen armed opposition in Nazran, well informed source in the state commission told Interfax.

Chernomyrdin passed a decision to examine information of the federal delegation and measures for practical implementation of ceasefire agreements reached in the Kremlin on May 27 and on liberation of people kept by force at the next session of the state commission in detail.

The negotiations in Nazran have laid the ground for a real inner-Chechen dialogue, Chernomyrdin said while familiarizing with the report. Head of the Chechen parliament Amin Osmayev and deputy prime ministers represented official Groznyy at the negotiations and Aslan Maskhadov, chief of the headquarters of illegal armed formations, represented the armed opposition.

Speaking about the start of an inner-Chechen dialogue, Chernomyrdin said that "this is an important political stage in implementing the tasks put forward by the president for the state commission on a peace settlement in Chechnya."

Chernomyrdin confirmed Russia's official position stating that the issue on the date of elections of Chechnya's state power bodies is Chechnya's internal affair.

Two working groups made up of representatives of the federal authorities and armed opposition continued their consultations on Chechnya's territory Wednesday. General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, commander of the temporary group of federal forces in Chechnya, and chief of the headquarters of illegal armed formations Aslan Maskhadov head the group in charge of military issues. General Nikolay Bezborodov and Interior Minister in Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev's government, Kazbek Makhashev, head the groups working out issues on liberation of people kept by force. The working group on military issues must prepare a precise mechanism ensuring ceasefire and the second group must ensure liberation of all people illegally detained by both parties.

Chernomyrdin will inform Russian President Boris Yeltsin on results of the negotiations between the federal delegation and representatives of Chechen armed opposition and two protocols signed there on Wednesday, the source said.

Media Issues

Russia: Gazprom Buys 30 Percent Share in NTV

LD1106172396 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 11 Jun 96

[Video report by correspondent Arkadiy Medvedev — from the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The main news in journalistic circles today was the announcement of an almost sensational deal to sell a considerable part of the shares in our TV company. The Gazprom Joint-stock Company has acquired 30 percent of the shares. Gusinskiy, director general of the Most group; Malashenko, president of NTV; and Vyakhirev, chairman of Gazprom, spoke at a news conference in Moscow today about what one of the first non-state TV companies in Russia can expect as a result.

[Medvedev] NTV President Igor Malashenko stressed that it is extremely significant that this event occurred on the eve of the presidential election. This shows yet again the confidence of all those participating in the deal in Russia's stable development. Igor Malashenko then categorically denied the idea that the sale of 30 percent of the shares to Gazprom could lead to the TV company becoming dependent on the authority of the day.

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[Malashenko] The TV company's independence is from today even stronger, for the simple reason that I do not believe in the existence of any basis for professional independence other than a solid economic basis. If the mass media are built on solid economic foundations, that guarantees the professional independence of the journalists working in them. That was the situation in NTV right from the first day. The company's economic basis is now even stronger.

[Medvedev] Rem Vyakhirev, chairman of the board of the Gazprom Russian Joint-stock Company, also stressed that the management of Gazprom first studied the economic sense of the deal before concluding it. Incidentally, public opinion played a considerable role in favor of the final decision for Vyakhirev.

[Vyakhirev] Most of the time I am not in Moscow, and I see from mixing with people outside the capital how much authority NTV has among our public and not just ours, first of all. And I know a little about it myself, and the professionalism of the staff at NTV can only make other companies envy them.

[Medvedev] Thirty percent is a big portion of the shares, of course, and it will enable Gazprom to take an active part in administering the TV company, VLadimir Gusinskiy, director general of the Most group, stressed. But the founding company and the Most group itself retain 70 percent.

[Gusinskiy] The reason why the Most group surrendered part of its shares is no secret. We are engaged in a major new project. For us it's a very big project: direct TV broadcasting. It requires considerable money and thus we have brought in Gazprom as a partner for NTV. We are happy with this and very satisfied.

[Medvedev] According to preliminary estimates, our TV company will need an investment of more than $100 million at the beginning alone in order to launch five specialized channels — news, sport, family, domestic cinema, and foreign cinema — in the autumn. Therefore Gazprom's involvement in the project is very considerable. [video shows news conference]

Military Issues

Russia: Soskovets Expects $10 Billion Export Orders for Warplanes

LD1106142496 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In July Russia is expected to conclude a number of important contracts for the export of Su-27 and Su-30 warplanes, whose total value may eventually reach $10 billion. This was announced by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets during a visit to Irkutsk aircraft manufacturing association.

He announced that currently the volume of Russian arms exports amounted overall to some $3 billion. Soskovets said that by 1997, on the basis of the Sukhoy experimental design bureau and also aviation enterprises in Novosibirsk, Irkutsk, and Komsomolsk-on-Amur, a major aircraft manufacturing corporation is to be set up.

The first deputy prime minister noted that the government would give aid to Irkutsk aircraft manufacturing association in implementation of conversion programs and equipping itself for production of civil aircraft.

Regional Affairs

Russia: Chechen Parliament Leaders Call For Election Postponement

LD1206114896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1107 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, June 12 (Interfax) — The majority of Chechen Supreme Soviet leaders called for postponing parliamentary elections in the republic.

Originally, it was planned to hold parliamentary polls in Chechnya simultaneously with the elections of the Russian president on June 16.

Informed sources in Groznyy told Interfax on Wednesday that at a closed meeting on Tuesday, eight out of 12 members of the Supreme Soviet presidium voted against holding parliamentary polls on June 16.

However, a spokesman for the Chechen head, Ruslan Martagov, told Interfax that at their joint meeting today, the Chechen government, members of the parliament presidium and candidates to the National Assembly agreed that the elections will be held as scheduled.

Russia: Zavgayev Aide: Cancelled Elections Would Be Separatist Defeat

LD1206084596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0748 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 12 (Interfax) — The cancellation of elections in Chechnya "would mean a defeat before the separatists," Ruslan Martagov, the press secretary of Chechnya's Moscow-backed leader Doku Zavgayev, told Interfax Wednesday.

Neither the Chechen government, nor parliament "will ever agree to this or yield to the pressure of a handful of blackmailers," he said.

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He also said that according to his sources, the separatists are planning to carry out a series of provocations and terrorist acts. "We shall do everything we can to prevent this," he said.

Expressing the position of the official authorities, Martagov said that the separatists "advanced the demand for cancelling parliamentary elections on purpose." "The idea of the agreements concluded with the federal delegation was to gain time," he said.

"They need a break at all costs, and further events will develop in accordance with the scenario of the summer of 1995, when the separatists conducted talks and were concurrently replenishing their arsenals and regrouping their forces," said Martagov.

He also said that following the conclusion of the joint documents in 1995, the separatists organized provocative meetings in a number of regions, fuelling anti-government moods among a definite part of the population. "All that led to a sharp deterioration of the situation and to one more outbreak of combat operations," he said.

Presently, in the conditions of an active inner-Chechen peace dialogue, the leaders of the Chechen Republic "will not allow last year's events to repeat themselves," Martagov stated.

Meanwhile, leader of the Chechen Republic Doku Zavgayev flew out to Krasnodar where a treaty of friendship and cooperation will be signed between the Chechen Republic and the Krasnodar territory.

Russia: Chechen Opposition Refuses To Participate in 13 Jun Talks

LD1106154496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1506 GMT 11 Jun 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Zhukov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nazran, 11 Jun (Itar-Tass) — Khamzat Yandarbiyev, the representative of the Chechen armed opposition and deputy speaker of the parliament of the "Chechen Republic-Ichkeria" said today at a news conference in Nazran that the Chechen side refuses to take part in talks scheduled for 13 June with Gennadiy Seleznev, chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation and leaders of leading parliamentary fractions. The aim of these talks was to be a decision allowing, at parliament level, to create an effective system for monitoring the observation of the agreements on cessation of military operations in the Chechen Republic.

According to Yandarbiyev, at the last moment the Russian side said that it "will not guarantee the safety and immunity of the delegation." For this reason, according to Yandarbiyev, the meeting will not be held.

Russia: Chechnya Situation 'Remains Complex' as Talks Resume

MM1106135196 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Jun 96 p 3

[Report by Anatoliy Mikhaylov: "Talks Continue on Optimistic Note. Meanwhile Separatists in Chechnya Try To Wreck Elections for Republic's Legislative Organs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As previously intended, talks between delegations from the federal authorities and the Chechen separatists continued 9 June in Nazran. The first round of dialogue, as KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported, failed to bring any constructive decisions. The demands made by representatives of the armed Chechen opposition regarding the federal troops' immediate withdrawal from the Chechen Republic were the main obstacle to the implementation of the accords that have been reached.

Things may, it seems, get moving after a two-day recess during which the sides have carefully analyzed and modified their positions. At any rate last Sunday [9 June] the delegations' representatives expressed their satisfaction with the way in which the first day of talks had gone. During an interview with ITAR-TASS Federal Delegation Head Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, Russian minister of nationalities affairs and federal relations, noted that the sides had first examined the set of military questions: the suspension of combat operations, the stage-by-stage pulling back and withdrawal of the federal troops, and the demilitarization of rayons and zones.

The federal delegation head described as being of "fundamental importance" the moment when the participants in the talks had voiced a united opinion regarding the need to create the conditions to implement the cease-fire agreement signed in Moscow and take concrete steps to confirm the seriousness of the sides' intentions.

Vyacheslav Mikhaylov also said that the question of the handover of 14 Chechens detained by the federal forces and 27 internal troops captured by gunmen 31 May was being examined.

Meanwhile the Chechen separatists' attempt to wreck the legislative elections due to take place in the Chechen Republic 16 June is gradually coming to the fore, and this was easily noted during the talks in Nazran. It is this fairly tough stipulation made by the separatists that may now be the next stumbling block to the talks. It has already been said that the armed Chechen opposition's delegation will insist that elections in Chechnya are only

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possible once the federal troops have been withdrawn and the republic demilitarized.

These intentions were bolstered by the fact that the separatists are carrying out the program announced at a recent rally in Shali by Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev to annihilate the Chechen Republic leadership. Yusup Elmurzayev, head of the Urus-Martanovskiy Rayon administration, was brutally murdered 8 June. He left for work with his guard in the morning. His vehicle was overtaken 400 meters from home by two automobiles from which automatic weapons fired a hail of bullets. The bandits killed five of the six people in Elmurzayev's vehicle on the spot.

According to available information, 39-year old Yusup Elmurzayev, a historian by training and writer of a large number of works on the history of the Chechen people, was a born diplomat, able to find a solution to any situation.

Journalists were told by Nikolay Koshman, chairman of the Chechen Republic Government, that "Elmurzayev was a member of the new generation, he wanted peace for his people, and what happened is cause for great sorrow...."

Meanwhile the situation in Chechnya remains complex. The editorial office was told by the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information Directorate that in line with the accords reached on the suspension of combat operations throughout the Chechen Republic the federal troops are rigorously observing all items of the agreement. However, the gunmen are not stopping their armed provocation. In the past 24 hours (10 June) federal troop positions have been shelled eight times, four times in Groznyy,

According to Lieutenant Colonel Vasiliy Panchenkov, a staffer at the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs Internal Troop Press Office, an increase has been noted in Groznyy in the activity of individual small groups of gunmen, who are attacking servicemen and policemen. A Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs Internal Troop armored personnel carrier was shelled in Groznyy's Staropromyslovskiy Rayon 9 June en route to its temporary base. Two internal troops were killed.

During inspections of apartment blocks near to troop units' temporary bases members of the federal police and the Chechen Republic Ministry of Internal Affairs have found positions made ready for snipers and grenade throwers. Carefully camouflaged ammunition stores are generally discovered in the vicinity.

Russia: Defense Ministry Presents Plan for Chechen Withdrawal

LD1106140096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 11 (Interfax) — The Russian Defense Ministry has worked out a plan of priorities for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechnya, Lt. Gen. Andrey Ivanov of the General Staff told Interfax on Tuesday.

The troops will be withdrawn by rail, he said. The idea of withdrawal by means of their own vehicles is practically excluded, according to him.

A plan similar to the approved one was also prepared by the Interior Ministry, said Ivanov. It suggests that after the general pullout a brigade under the Defense Ministry and one under the Interior Ministry should stay permanently in Chechnya.

The talks between the federal authorities and the separatists have not yet exerted the expected influence on the Chechen rebels, and their armed resistance continues, Ivanov said at a briefing in the Kremlin.

Thirteen Defense Ministry servicemen and 25 soldiers of the interior troops have been killed since May 27. Eighty-seven interior servicemen and 37 army soldiers have been wounded, he said.

The separatist leadership is actively campaigning to discredit the agreements signed, said Ivanov. A group of 25 rebels is moving to the districts of Chernorechye and Aldy in the Chechen capital of Groznyy to commit acts of violence there in an attempt to destabilize the situation before the elections, he said. Ivanov confirmed reports that separatist fighters are massing in the Nozhay-Yurt and Vedeno districts of southern Chechnya and that they are building fortifications and mining the locality.

Russia: Tikhomirov Discusses Chechnya Withdrawal Issues

LD1106185496 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 11 Jun 96

[Video report from Chechnya by unidentified correspondent, including recorded interview with Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, Russian commander in Chechnya — from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The subunit of the 245th motor-rifle regiment stationed in the area of Shatoy has started to move from its positions. The withdrawal of the federal forces has begun under the agreement recently reached in Nazran. As reported by Interfax, only two

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Russian brigades are to stay in Chechnya after the Russian troops are withdrawn.

[Correspondent] [video shows soldiers] Today is the first day of the cease-fire which, as the morning events have shown, is observed by one side only. At 1115 a special echelon of the Defense Ministry troops was shelled, as it moved from Ishcherkaya to Khankala. There were no casualties. The press center of the group of troops reported that exactly 40 minutes after this incident, fire was opened on a Mi-24 helicopter in the section between Samashki and Achkhoy-Martan by the opposition's convoy which was returning from the peace talks. According to a preliminary agreement, that helicopter escorted Maskhadov's convoy. There was no retaliatory fire.

[Vyacheslav Tikhomirov] In the next few days we are expected to announce a schedule for the withdrawal of troops and for the demilitarization of the area. We will pull out the troops from the areas where the situation permits. In other words, we will not be repeating the mistakes of 1995 by pulling out indiscriminately. Speaking about the current situation in the republic, the flames of war have not died down in the past 24 hours. An armored personnel carrier and an infantry-fighting vehicle have been blown up. In total 11 people were killed and seven wounded.

[Unidentified journalist] Will the withdrawal of troops be affected by the situation which arose today when fire was opened on the helicopter escorting the group of the opposition?

[Tikhomirov] Generally we will try to ensure safety and we have said it before. We will try to find out what happened there, because at the moment we have not yet had the full information. We have seen the shooting but considering that the responsibility we shoulder is very great, we will try, I think, to find out what happened there.

Russia: Mikhaylov Comments on Federal-Chechen Peace Accord

LD1106202996 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Jun 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The members of the federal delegation who returned from Nazran to Moscow today gave their assessment of the Chechen peace agreement reached there yesterday.

[Begin Vyacheslav Mikhaylov recording] We believe that this document may be the last chance and may be the only possibility of peace. [end recording]

With this dramatic statement, the head of the federal delegation at the talks with the Chechen separatists in Nazran, Mikhaylov, began his news conference. According to him, the four-page protocol signed allows for the Chechen problem to be solved peacefully this time. The signing of the first protocol provides an opportunity for a federal troop withdrawal to be combined realistically with the disarmament of the opposition's formations.

[Begin Mikhaylov recording] It would be fantasy to talk about complete disarmament including the civilian population over two to three months — fantasy. But the disarmament of the main illegal armed formations, the list of which should be set out clearly, is a realistic possibility. We agreed that Lt-Gen Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, the commander of the joint group of federal forces, and Aslan Maskhadov, Chechen separatist chief of staff, would give a schedule to the heads of the commission which would synchronize these main aspects by 15 June. [end recording]

Mikhaylov described the meeting between the delegations of the Chechen government and the opposition as one of the most important aspects of the talks.

[Begin Mikhaylov recording] They spent three hours in what I would call a hard and serious dialogue. They then met again in order, as the Russian president said, to sit around the same table and conduct a real internal Chechen dialogue at the level of opposition and government, to put it like that. I think the process has begun. [end recording]

Perhaps for the first time in the whole history of the conflict, a member of the Russian government and one of the main negotiators acknowledged with whom he was dealing in the republic.

[Begin Mikhaylov recording] A huge part of the population including even children and teenagers was drawn into these processes. [end recording]

Mikhaylov says that the hardest thing was the discussion of the postponement of the election to the Chechen Assembly. Two days were devoted to the issue. In the end everyone agreed that it was an internal issue for the Chechens.

[Begin Mikhaylov recording] We expressed the position, and I stress that it was the position of the two commissions, that we consider it expedient to hold elections at all levels of authority in the Chechen Republic after the withdrawal of the temporary joint forces and the disarmament of the illegal armed formations. [end recording]

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As for the presidential election on Chechen territory, Mikhaylov stressed that the Chechen opposition would not place obstacles in its way. In the event of this agreement being broken, the talks will be called off. By all accounts, both delegations managed to achieve an acceptable compromize in the settlement of the Chechen conflict. How events will develop further will be clear in the very near future.

Russia: Fighters Reportedly Fire on Chechen Negotiators

LD1106163696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 11 (Interfax) — Sergey Stepashin, deputy head of the Russian negotiating team in the Nazran talks with the Chechen separatists, said at a news conference in the INTERFAX headquarters that the separatist delegation came under fire from a small group of maverick fighters.

Stepashin spoke by telephone with Movladi Udugov, a member of the Chechen separatist negotiating team, who said that one federal trooper was wounded and several Chechen bodyguards were slightly injured in the incident.

Stepashin said Udugov disagreed with the view that the delegation was fired at by Chechen fighters who do not obey orders from the separatist command.

Stepashin recalled that "in the course of talks in Nazran [Chechen separatist military commander] Aslan Maskhadov told the federal negotiators that he is in control of all separatist units. He later added, however, that certain scattered groups are acting on their own, some of them being engaged in blood feuds."

Chechen separatist negotiators agreed that, jointly with federal units, they will take steps to neutralize small unruly groups of fighters, Stepashin said.

Russia: Russians 'Bewildered' by Criticism of OSCE's Guldimann

LD1106171796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 11 (Interfax) — The Russian federal authorities' delegation at talks with Chechen separatists is bewildered by the Moscow-backed Chechen government's criticism of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] Assistance Group in the Chechen capital of Groznyy and its head, Tim Guldimann, Russian deputy chief negotiator Sergey Stepashin told a news conference at Interfax's central office on Tuesday.

"We are as much bewildered by the accusations against Guldimann put forward by the Chechen Republic's leadership as the diplomats are," he said.

Russian negotiators at talks with the armed Chechen opposition agree with the Russian Foreign Ministry on the need to keep the OSCE mission in Groznyy, including Tim Guldimann, Stepashin said.

Stepashin praised the performance of the OSCE mission in Groznyy and Guldimann's personal role in the organization of talks between the Russian and Chechen sides.

The OSCE mission's head performed "rather specific functions" during the talks, he said. In particular, the Russian delegation requested Guldimann to give a legal evaluation of the problem concerning elections on Chechen territory. This happened after the sides snagged on differences regarding different interpretations of the May 27-28 agreements between Moscow and the separatists, Stepashin said.

Guldimann then said that under the OSCE principles Chechnya is part of Russian territory and Moscow has the authority to hold Russian presidential elections in Chechnya, he said.

However, Guldimann "somewhat overstepped the limit and imprudently said that elections for the Chechen parliament would be unreasonable and undemocratic within the context of the present situation," Stepashin said.

Problems relating to the implementation of the military part of the May 27-28 accords were considered during long-lasting active consultations between Commander of the Federal Troops in Chechnya Vyacheslav Tikhomirov and Chechen rebel forces commander Aslan Maskhadov, the Russian negotiators said.

Both sides agreed to create joint working groups for the implementation of the existing agreements. Those who breach the accords or disobey the order to observe the cease-fire will face measures taken by one of the sides or both of them, the two delegations decided.

Russia: Lobov Assails 'Provocative Utterances' of Chechnya's Udugov

LD1206110796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0954 GMT 12 Jun 96

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 12 Jun (Itar-Tass) — Movladi Udugov, minister of information of "Ichkeria", "would do better to seek ways of achieving a stable

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peace and harmony in Chechnya" instead of making provocative accusations, Oleg Lobov, secretary of the Security Council and special envoy of the Russian president in Chechnya, told journalists in Groznyy today. He categorically denied Udugov's statement yesterday about the involvement of the Chechen government and the administration of the president's special envoy in the blasts on Tuesday [11 June] on the route taken by the Chechen separatists' convoy to the talks in Nazran.

"Essentially, there is nothing surprising here: Udugov is known for his provocative utterances based on his fertile diversionary imagination," Lobov continued. "It would be hard to imagine a more blasphemous story. It would be correct for a participant in the talks in Nazran, where a decision was taken to avoid any actions or statements that could impede the implementation of the agreements on a cease-fire, the cessation of hostilities, and settling the armed conflict in Chechnya, to refrain from such remarks."

The head of the OSCE mission in Groznyy, Tim Guldimann, was also travelling in the convoy of trucks along with the separatists. The president's special envoy in Chechnya sent him a letter today in which he expressed regret over the incident and voiced the hope for further fruitful cooperation with the mission on matters relating to the peaceful resolution of the conflict on the territory of Chechnya.

Oleg Lobov flew to Krasnodar today where a treaty on friendship and cooperation between the Chechen Republic and Krasnodar Territory is due to be signed.

Russia: Groznyy Links Recent Terrorism With Yandarbiyev Statements

LD1206103096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0957 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, June 12 (Interfax) — The Chechen Republic's Ministry for Information and the Press asserts that the recent terrorist acts in Chechnya are directly linked with statements by Chechen separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev on his decree on the physical liquidation of the people cooperating with the Zavgayev government, says the Ministry's statement circulated in Groznyy Wednesday.

"Time has demonstrated that these threats (by Yandarbiyev) are being implemented," says the document.

Its authors believe that the attack on the apartment of Zulay Zainalabdiyeva, the director of the state TV and radio company Vainakh, and the assassination of Yusup Elmurzayev, the leader of the Urus-Martan administration on June 8 are "links in one chain." Responsibility for these terrorist acts rests with the people "who spoke about the termination of violence and peaceful settlement of all issues at the highest level a few days ago," the statement says.

"The goal of these actions is to foil elections, fan tensions and create an atmosphere of fear and violence," says the document.

Russia: Dudayev's Widow Explains Support for Yeltsin

MM1206111496 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Jun 96 p 6

[Interview with Alla Dudayeva, widow of former Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, by Irina Dementyeva and Valeriy Yakov: "Alla Dudayeva: 'Dzhokhar Very Much Wanted Peace'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

Dudayev and Yeltsin

[IZVESTIYA] Alla Fedorovna, your words in support of the Russian president made a big impact. Was the sense of what you said not distorted? Or maybe the special services compelled you to make what for you was such a strange statement in exchange for your release or some other concessions?

[Dudayeva] No, there was no compulsion. I really do believe that the path to peace, the path to freedom in Russia are closely linked to President Yeltsin's name. Now, when people have to make a choice, they should appreciate that they are choosing not only an individual, but Russia's future path. I also believe that the president's current desire to establish peace in Chechnya is entirely sincere.

[IZVESTIYA] Do you think Dzhokhar Dudayev would have approved of such statements after all that has happened in Chechnya?

[Dudayeva] Yes, I am sure he would have supported me. Dzhokhar very much wanted peace and he knew how tired our people were of war. He saw that the war was taking the lives of the best people. Dzhokhar too believed that Yeltsin was sincere in his intention to hold talks and halt the bloodshed.

Not many people know that throughout the war Dudayev was looking for a chance to meet with Yeltsin, explain to him the nature of what was happening in Chechnya, and tell him what forces were provoking the carnage. Four times during the war Dzhokhar sent his people to seek a meeting with Yeltsin — with a peace proposal. He suffered greatly when he saw our republic destroyed day by day and young, honest guys killed.

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But none of the groups he dispatched was able to get to the Russian president.

[IZVESTIYA] Nonetheless, the war in Chechnya began with the knowledge of the Russian president and forces were introduced into the republic at his behest. The hunt for your husband, which culminated in Dudayev's death, was no doubt conducted with his approval. After that, can you believe Yeltsin?

[Dudayeva] A woman wanting peace for her people and her nearest and dearest must be able to forgive. I think that over the years of observing Dzhokhar's entourage I was able to understand Yeltsin's entourage as well. Dzhokhar, particularly in the early years, was very often the pawn of his own entourage. He trusted people among whom were many false and treacherous individuals pursuing their own selfish interests. Four times he had to replace his cabinet of ministers to get rid of the thieves and cheats who remained in the picture. They would surface again and again under every authority, and indeed they are now flocking around Zavgayev, who cultivated them when he was in a position of authority.

Following the events in Pervomayskoye I realized that Yeltsin was in the same position as Dzhokhar. He was the pawn of his own entourage and the information he was receiving was remote from the truth, although has was making decisions based on that information. I think it was like that throughout the war. We were being constantly bombed, while Yeltsin was being told that there were no aircraft in the air. The president would issue a command halting combat actions and the military would blockade villages and launch missile strikes.

Observing Yeltsin's behavior throughout the war, I suddenly began to feel that I was beginning to understand his powerful, truly Russian nature. The image of the bear really is very appropriate: He is essentially good-natured, but he does not know his own strength, and sometimes, when brushing away something that is irritating him, he can kill someone. Unfortunately, they were able to present Chechnya to him as an irritant.

Dudayev and the War

[passage omitted] [IZVESTIYA] It was often said that Dudayev was not in control of his own subunits, that his subunits were based on people fighting for money. And that he was extremely harsh toward those who refused to participate in the war.

[Dudayeva] The backbone of the subunits was always ordinary Chechens fighting not for money, but for their homes and their lands. Dzhokhar was never harsh toward them, realizing that these were the people who would be with him to the end. These guys, when tired of fighting, would occasionally go home for a few days, for a week or a month, if their homes were still intact, have a rest and recover, but they would always return.

[IZVESTIYA] But he was also able to take a break, go to warm foreign countries, and send you and your children there.

[Dudayeva] Yes, I know about the rumors. When we had electricity, Dzhokhar and I would watch "Vesti" and "Vremya" up there in the mountains and laugh at those reports. He never left the war, never sought a break for himself.

[IZVESTIYA] Throughout that nightmare war your husband had to fight against his former comrades-in-arms. Fight an army that had raised him, given him wings and a general's shoulderboards. What did he think about that and how did he regard Pavel Grachev?

[Dudayeva] Dzhokhar always regretted the collapse of the Soviet Union, which as a family we had toured a great deal, going from place to place. Siberia, Estonia, and Ukraine were always dear to us. He was deeply affected by the disintegration of the army, and, while he was still able, he often talked about it with his former fellow servicemen, whom it was always a delight to entertain. Even now, in the midst of this nightmare, I stay in Russia with friends, friends we served with. And they protect me.

He sympathized with Pavel Grachev. He told me that Grachev had started the war against his will and he did not have the power to stop it. Dzhokhar was well aware that there were forces both in the Kremlin and in Chechnya who wanted the war. But I hope that if I get to meet with Yeltsin or if Aleksandr Vasilyevich Korzhakov will hear me out, they will appreciate what is actually happening. [passage omitted]

Russia: Premier Meets Heads of Voronezh Enterprizes, Organizations

LD1106144596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1353 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VORONEZH, June 11 (Interfax) — The Russian Government plans to work out a federal program for military-technical cooperation with foreign states, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said at a meeting with heads of Voronezh region enterprises and public organizations.

The draft program has been already submitted to the government and will be adopted before the end of the year, he said. Chernomyrdin described this document as one of the most important strategic directions in the government's activity to support the defense branches. He also spoke of the decision of the president and the

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government to pay off the whole of the debt to the military-industrial complex from state orders for 1994-1996 this year. A total of 6 trillion rubles is needed for these purposes. "It is difficult to do this, but money will be allocated," Chernomyrdin said.

An additional 2 trillion rubles will be allocated to the defense industry this year to continue the federal conversion program.

Speaking about the problems of the Voronezh region, Chernomyrdin announced the intention of the Cabinet of Ministers to prepare a federal program providing for the development of nuclear power engineering in the Central Black Earth region. The program focusses on the construction of the sixth and seventh reactors at the Novovoronezh nuclear power plant. It is necessary to build these units because the third and fourth reactors at this plant are to be put out of operation by 2002, and as a result the region may experience an acute shortage of energy.

On the topic of the upcoming presidential elections, Chernomyrdin said that President Boris Yeltsin's program is a document which contains several directions in which it is possible to take real steps already now. Chernomyrdin was critical of the economic programs of other Russian presidential hopefuls, saying that their implementation may lead to difficult coasequences for the country's economy.

Chernomyrdin confirmed the government's intention to continue market reforms. The course for financial stabilization is the most important one, he said. Its final aim is the creation of favorable grounds for the development of investment processes in the economy.

Chernomyrdin is participating in a holiday devoted to Russia's Independence Day in the afternoon and will return to Moscow this evening.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Concludes Visit to Voronezh, Returns to Moscow

LD1106210396 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1838 GMT 11 Jun 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Gennadiy Yezhov and Anatoliy Starukhin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Voronezh, 11 Jun (Itar-Tass) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin concluded his one-day working visit to Voronezh late this evening.

Today Viktor Chernomyrdin familiarized himself with the living conditions of the servicemen withdrawn from Germany. When visiting a new townlet of 1,300 apartments, Viktor Chernomyrdin and the leadership of the region adopted a decision to start the construction of a second lot of 500 apartments.

The head of the Russian Government paid a visit to the "Zarya" association manufacturing modern space communications equipment and had a meeting with the directors of the enterprises of the radio electronic complex. He also took part in a conference of the heads of state authority and local self-government and the region's enterprises, organizations, and establishments.

In the evening the prime minister participated in a festive meeting devoted to the day of adopting the declaration on the sovereignty of the Russian Federation.

At the end of the day Viktor Chernomyrdin met the clergy of the Voronezh eparchy.

Russia: Leftist Says Luzhkov Plotting To Thwart Moscow Election

LD1206120396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1144 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 12 (Interfax) — A left-wing leader on Wednesday accused Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov of machinations designed to thwart next Sunday's election for the Moscow mayoralty and provide reasons for "a state of emergency."

Addressing a rally on a square in central Moscow, Officers' Union leader Stanislav Terekhov, candidate for the mayoralty, said a Tuesday night bombing in the Moscow underground which took several lives was part of "machinations by the pro-mayor forces."

He branded Luzhkov as "a mouthpiece of extremists and provocation-mongers." "If he doesn't agree let him sue me in court," Terekhov told the rally, which, according to police sources, brought together about 1,500 people.

"The popular and patriotic forces are ready to rebuff the attempts of the authorities to unleash a civil war in Moscow and nationwide," Terekhov said, referring to recent bombings in the capital.

He said he and his supporters would do their best to make sure "the election takes place" and that it is "an honest and democratic election.

Terekhov urged his listeners to vote for him at the mayoral election and for Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov at the presidential poll scheduled for the same day.

Earlier on Wednesday a hardline communist leader denied accusations by Luzhkov, who said Tuesday's bombing and last week's supposed attempt to assassinate Deputy Mayor Valeriy Shantsev had been organized by left radicals. Speaking at a street rally in

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Moscow, Working Russia group leader Viktor Anpilov called the accusations an "evil fabrication."

Economic Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Adviser on Budget Issues

LD1006191596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1813 GMT 10 Jun 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [place and date not given] (INTERFAX) President Boris Yeltsin's economics aide Aleksandr Livshits said on Monday that, in a message on budgeting for 1997, Yeltsin gave the government three main tasks: the government must meet its financial commitments unconditionally, fully and without delay, ensure sufficient funding for the welfare state and provide favorable conditions for investment and business.

The president set concrete quantitative targets for the government, putting the average monthly inflation rate at 0.8 percent and the budget deficit at a maximum of 3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), Livshits told Interfax.

"This means the economic policy will be amended while the economic strategy - transition from financial stabilization to increasing investment - will remain unchanged," he said.

He said the 1997 budget was to be based on such parameters as the minimum wage, the minimum pension and free services such as those of education or health care.

The government was also to continue paying the population compensation for bank accounts depreciated by inflation, enforcing a law on veterans and redeeming 1990 bonds.

The government was to annually pay around 1 percent of GDP between 1997 and 2005 to cancel the country's foreign debt and to cut tied loans it took abroad to $1 billion a year.

The president also insisted on creating a stable legislative base for taxation, the aide said.

A tax reform was to be launched next year in which the range of taxes would be reduced, some of them abolished and some combined.

Yeltsin also proposed reforming the amortization mechanism to shorten amortization periods and simplify calculation procedures.

To ensure more accurate payment of tax deferment rules were to be tightened. Yeltsin ordered the government to stop the practice of canceling enterprises' tax arrears in exchange of the enterprises' writing off of government debts and ensure that all taxes are paid. The incomes of bigger enterprises were to be taken under tight government control.

Enterprises which were members of financial and industrial groups were to pay a consolidated profit tax.

All those measures were expected to annually bring the national treasury at least 70 trillion rubles more.

"An active budgetary policy in 1997 is aimed to create conditions for economic growth, ensure a balanced social security policy, provide a sufficient level of national security, increase Russia's prestige in world money markets and strengthen the national currency," Livshits said.

At a news briefing in Moscow the same day, Livshits commented on a recent law under which the Central Bank is to transfer part of its profit to the national treasury.

He said the money - 5 trillion rubles - was to be used to pay wages and holiday allowances to teachers and residents of Arctic regions and to buy armaments.

This was a "one-time measure," however, and did not mean that the Russian leadership had changed its economic policy, the aide said.

He said the Central Bank had good reasons for disquiet it had expressed over the law but that the government had also been right in insisting that the money be sent to the national treasury. "Everyone was right, but that was the decision that had to be made," he said.

He said the president's office had been receiving many complaints about delayed wages, student grants and social security allowances from people who said they had appealed to their chief executives at work but the executives had advised them to appeal directly to the president.

Livshits said that in this way local leaders "sacrifice people's interests for their petty political passions." He accused such leaders of "complete loss of conscience" and threatened they would be taken to task in due course. "The presidential] election will be over, and we'll get to all of them," he said.

Russia: Business Leaders' Rejection of CP Program Welcomed

MM1106150596 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Jun 96 p 1

[Commentary by Mikhail Berger under the "Instant Analysis" rubric: "'Group of 13' Has Realized That

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It Is Impossible To Come to Agreement With the Communists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Friday a group of leading Russian businessmen, known as the "Group of 13," sent the communist leader a letter entitled "On G.A. Zyuganov's Economic Program." The letter provides a harsh assessment of the Communists' economic plans and expresses absolute disagreement with the viewpoint of the people's-patriotic forces' leader.

We should remind you that the "Group of 13" emerged as a kind of political focus after a first letter was published 27 April entitled: "Getting out of the Impasse." In it respected and — particularly important — very influential businessmen made an appeal to the two main opposing political forces to reach a compromise.

From the very beginning IZVESTIYA did not share the enthusiasm in the press at that time for big business' political initiative for the simple reason that we never harbored any illusions about the possibility of coming to an agreement about anything at all with the Communists. Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev, in a piece at the time in IZVESTIYA, stated directly that you cannot build a policy on compromise between a living organism and a corpse, and called on the bankers not to provide the rope with which to hang the capitalists.

Through their appeal on Friday the representatives of Russian big business removed from themselves the suspicion that they were conformists ready to cooperate with any authorities that might become established in the country in the wake of the presidential election.

The present letter from the bankers demonstrates that, if anyone had hoped to come to an agreement with the Communists (for example under the slogan: "Banks are necessary under any authorities"), then today after the publication of Zyuganov's program such illusions have disappeared. The rich and influential representatives of Russian big business have, it seems, realized that it is not only impossible but dangerous to come to an agreement with the Communists. Though we did not necessarily have to wait for the appearance of Zyuganov's program to realize this. It would have been sufficient to glance back at our country's history during the years of Communist rule.

Russia: Text of Law on Transfer of Central Bank Profits

MM1106085296 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Jun 96 p 1

[Russian Federal Law No. 62 "On the Transfer of Central Bank of the Russian Federation Profit to the Federal Budget Adopted by the State Duma 5 June 1996 and Approved by the Federation Council 5 June 1996" signed by President Yeltsin in Moscow 5 June 1996]

[FBIS Translated Text] This Federal Law prescribes the procedure for the transfer of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation's profits based on the 1994 accounts to the federal budget.

Article 1. The Central Bank of the Russian Federation is to transfer to the federal budget before 10 June 1996 profits of 5.0 trillion rubles [R] as based on the 1994 accounts.

It is established that the funds in question are to be used as follows:

— R3.9 trillion for the payment of wages to workers of state educational institutions, grants, annual vacation pay for teaching staff of state educational institutions, and for the payment of budget loans to Russian Federation components to ensure the payment of wages and annual vacation pay for teaching staff of state and municipal educational institutions and payment for travel for workers in the budget-funded sphere to and from their vacation destination in accordance with the Russian Federation Law "On State Guarantees and Compensation for People Living in the Far North and Equivalent Localities";
— and R1.1 trillion to cover the expenditure envisaged by the section "National Defense" in the Federal Law "On the 1996 Federal Budget" for the purchase of arms and military hardware and for scientific-research and experimental design work.

Article 2. By 14 June 1996 The Russian Federation Comptroller's Office is to verify the targeted use of the funds mentioned in this Federal Law.

Article 3. This Federal Law goes into force on the day of its official publication.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation. The Kremlin, Moscow. 5 June 1996. Federal Law No. 62.

Russia: Bank Profit Cull Seen Circumventing Money Supply Stop

MM1106144796 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jun 96 p 1

[Commentary by Sergey Ponomarev: "State Duma Cracks the Central Bank's Safe. The Printing Press Will Take the Strain. But Will the Economy?" — from the "Business Tuesday" Section page 1]

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a financial event which went almost unnoticed: Last week the State Duma

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adopted, the Federation Council approved, and the president signed the law "On the Transfer of Russian Federation Central Bank Profits to the Federal Budget."

Everyone seems happy. The deputies of all political hues, who noted the chronic shortage of money and borrowed no less than 5 trillion rubles [R] from the budget. The president, who on the eve of the election has been given another source for handing out goodies [razdacha slonov] and for feeding the needy. The only one who is unhappy is the main component of the new law — the Central Bank, whose first deputy chairman Sergey Aleksashenko has already drawn the worrying conclusion that the Bank of Russia's brief period of independence is over....

Anything is possible in our country, as we know. Even if it is banned by law. It is no secret that many loyal supporters of the incumbent president and government put the pressure on: "It is better to set the printing presses running before others do...." But the 1996 budget law forbids funding the budget by increasing money supply, Central Bank credits, or other inflationary sources. The executive held its ground. It played the state securities market. It dipped into the president's reserve fund. But how much is in that fund? R100 billion. And what are people's appetites like on the eve of the expression of the people's will? Consequently the law banning the printing of worthless money has been circumvented by means of another law.

The sequence of consequences is not hard to predict. The IMF could suspend the rest of the $4 billion credit. The reduction in the Central Bank's reserves will undoubtedly affect the financial market and the ability of the country's main credit institution to intervene in the currency market.

The aim of the new law on the Central Bank is most noble, of course: The money is to be used to pay teachers on vacation and pay vacationers from the Far North. It is appropriate to mention here, however, that inflation, like Shusher's rat, could gnaw away at all of today's payments.

Russia: Central Bank Yields to Profit Transfer Demand

MM1206092496 Moscow FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Jun 96 p i

[Article by Yevgeniy Vasilchuk: "Authorities Jettison Promise Not To Resort to Money Emission"; not received via internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 8 June the Bank of Russia Council of Directors made a decision on the unconditional fulfillment of the law on the payment into the budget of the 5 trillion rubles [R] of the Central Bank's profit for 1994. The decision was made despite the fact that the Central Bank leadership remains convinced of the legal unfoundedness and macroeconomic inexpediency of this law.

A little earlier, 5 June, the law on the payment of the profit was adopted by the Federal Assembly without the red tape usual in such cases and signed by President Yeltsin. The law was to help the government to overcome the Bank of Russia's reluctance to violate the money program parameters adopted for 1996.

The president's aide for economic issues and the finances minister admitted without beating about the bush the emission-oriented nature of the law. The confidence of officials in the controllability of the inflation indicator gives them grounds for forecasting that the consequences of open money emission will have only a trivial impact on the growth rates of consumer prices in the second half of 1996.

Meanwhile the decision on the R5 trillion is emissonary not only in essence but also in form. The Central Bank profit for 1994 is the result of the bank's provision of "centralized" credits, that is money credit emission backed up by nothing. So the decision to transfer the money contradicts the law on the 1996 budget. Although the law itself contains a relevant clause on the distribution of the Central Bank profit to benefit the budget this can affect only the profit obtained from nonemission operations. Russian legislation unequivocally and categorically bans the use of money emission to finance budget expenditure.

The overt and gross violation of the law by the Russian authorities induces gloomy thoughts. The Bank of Russia leadership, which initially displayed intransigence, was later obliged to obey. The Central Bank seemed to have abandoned the idea of disputing the law on the R5 trillion in the Constitutional Court. The timid talk and hints of possible resignations in the leadership remained rumors. At any rate, at the time this issue was signed to press there had been no official explanations on the subject.

There is a simple explanation for the Central Bank's compliance. Public confrontation for the sake of public interests would have had a ricochet effect in the form of irreparable damage to the departmental interests of the Central Bank itself. It was simpler to yield to accumulated demands to print money. Which, upon mature consideration, was done.

On the other hand, now the Bank of Russia has the right to count on a more attentive attitude on the part of the president and government. Particularly when the state

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apparatus bureaucrats and legislators are again starting to be gripped by black envy of the "fantastic" revenue of officials from Neglinnaya Street [where Central Bank is situated].

The IMF's position was no less selfish and cynical. Despite the IMF's proclaimed apolitical nature and the strictness of its monthly macroeconomic monitoring, the IMF is persistently continuing to fail to notice the pre-election advances which the Kremlin is issuing right and left and the highly alarming situation with regard to the Russian budget.

The sorry outcome of the "case of the R5 trillion" has confirmed that was has historically been the main task of the Central Bank in Russia — the issue of money — remains most topical. All other functions of a normal central bank — ensuring the stability of the national currency and monetary turnover and the banking system and so forth — are of no independent value in the eyes of the Russian authorities. And the Bank of Russia can expect no thanks from anyone for its achievements in this field.

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International Affairs

Ukraine: Ministry Denial of TIMES Nuclear Smuggling Allegation

WS1206080796 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0600 GMT 12 Jun 96

[By Halya Pavlyva, INTELNEWS Staff Writer]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, June 11 — A Foreign Ministry spokesman Tuesday denied allegations published Monday in THE WASHINGTON TIMES that Ukraine is selling nuclear weapon know-how to Libya in violation of U.N. sanctions against the terrorist-sponsoring country.

Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Hryshchenko, who is also a deputy chairman of the committee for control over sanctions, said the story contains "falsified information." In an interview Monday he said, "The facts set forth in the story with respect to Ukraine's policy in non-proliferation have nothing to do with reality."

The TIMES' article cites a U.S. intelligence report and contends that Ukraine's relations overbear sanctions against Libya by creating a special committee for economic cooperation with Libya that includes Ukraine's top nuclear energy official.

According to Hryshchenko, "An efficient system has been formed in Ukraine for control over exports of materials and technologies which is limited by corresponding international sanctions." He also suggested that the falsified facts in the story might be used as political propaganda to "weaken the positive effect produced throughout the world by the complete removal of nuclear arms from the territory of Ukraine."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Serheyev characterized THE WASHINGTON TIMES as a "primitive newspaper."

According to Serheyev, other articles accusing Ukraine of violating U.N. sanctions against Libya first appeared in the Ukrainian press in 1993 and 1994. In May 1995, an article with similar accusations appeared in Russia's IZVESTIYA newspaper.

"These publications have nothing to do with the truth. They are falsified facts interspersed with real names," Serheyev said.

In 1993, the United Nations banned trade with Libya related to arms or aircraft of any kind, and in 1994 the organization toughened sanctions prohibiting sales to Libya of oil drilling equipment.

Serheyev did say Ukraine is negotiating with Libya on "future contracts and participation in tenders," but that export of banned equipment or technology is impossible.

"It is difficult to control people who may have access to secret information, but such control does exist," Serheyev said. He speculated that the allegations may have been published to prejudice the U.S. Congress in its upcoming decision regarding aid to Ukraine, or to weaken Ukraine's position in an international tender to build a railroad in Libya.

Ukraine: Ministry Denies Violating UN Sanctions Against Libya

LD1106134496 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs categorically denies allegations that Ukraine violated [UN] sanctions against Libya, said Yuriy Serheyev, head of the ministry's information directorate, speaking at a briefing at the Foreign Ministry. He was referring to yesterday's article in 'THE WASHINGTON TIMES' which accused Ukraine of selling arms and sophisticated technology to Libya and planning to invest in the construction of a railroad there for military use.

"There is not a single piece of evidence to support the allegations," Serheyev said. He stressed that Ukraine has a reliable system of export controls to ensure compliance with sanctions and prevent the export of materials and technology subject to restrictions under international agreements on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of their delivery. These controls also apply to intellectual property, he said.

According to Serheyev, the allegations made in the article benefit certain circles which are keen to win a tender for the construction of a railroad in Libya, in which Ukraine is also taking part, and to create tension in relations between Ukraine and the United States.

Ukraine: Kuchma Views Possibility of Yeltsin Election Defeat

LD1206095896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0937 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, June 12 (Interfax-Ukraine) - President Leonid Kuchma said on Wednesday Boris Yeltsin's possible stepdown as Russian president as the result of this month's presidential election would "definitely affect" the situation in Ukraine.

"We are too closely linked to Russia," Kuchma told students at Kiev's Management Academy, and, "if

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economics is used for political ends, everyone realizes what a change of government in Russia may lead to."

"Pressure on Ukraine will continue regardless of the results of the election," he went on, while "[Russian Communist Party leader Gennady] Zyuganov's coming to power would give more strength to our left-wingers."

Kuchma reiterated his administration's position on the issue of the Black Sea Fleet, a former Soviet naval force Russia and Ukraine have agreed to divide between themselves. "We will never agree to have [the Crimean port of] Sevastopol become the base of the [Russian] Black Sea Fleet," he said.

Yet Kiev is ready "to provide the Russian Black Sea Fleet with all the conditions it needs for its normal functioning in Sevastopol," for which part of the city infrastructure would be put at the fleet's disposal, the president said.

He said Ukraine was ready to develop cooperation with Russia but "only on an equal basis." "In our relations with Russia we must be guided only by our national interests," he said, adding that "so far we have no relations with Russia that which take account of our interests."

Ukraine: Russian Elections Not Expected To Affect Ukraine-NATO Ties

LD1106132796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1121 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, June 11 (Interfax-Ukraine) — The results of the presidential elections in Russia cannot affect dramatically the development of cooperation between Ukraine and NATO, Igor Kharchenko of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry told a briefing in Kiev on Tuesday.

"The results of the elections in any European state, even in one as strategically important for the entire European security as Russia, cannot be decisively important for the relationships between other states and the security structures in Europe," he said.

Russia and NATO are "conducting a very intensive dialogue," said Kharchenko. He particularly noted the fact that speaking at the Berlin meeting of the NATO Council and of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov "avoided for the first time levelling sharp criticism at NATO's forthcoming expansion."

This, believes Kharchenko, makes it possible to speak "about a certain flexibility in the Russian policy on the issue."

Ukraine: Article Considers Cooperation With NATO 'Safest' Bet

AU1106132096 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 7 Jun 96 p 5

[Article by Anatoliy Martsynovskyy: "Ukraine — NATO: Will We Nod in Consent?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the International Secretariat of the alliance, we were offered a rather interesting "memo": A list of "10 erroneous views of NATO." According to the memo, it is not true that NATO is an essentially military bloc, an anti-Russian alliance, and an instrument of U.S. hegemony in Europe; that NATO expansion will create a new demarcation line on the continent and disrupt the strategic balance; that NATO assumed the role of a judge in the Balkan conflict; and that the alliance ignores Russian interests in general and "in the near abroad" in particular.

Let Moscow and Brussels decide among themselves someday whether NATO ignores Russian interests in general. We can only hope that it will happen as soon as possible. As for interests in the near abroad... "There is an opinion in Ukraine that the alliance's eastward expansion will transform our state into a kind of buffer between NATO and Russia. To what extent do you think such prospects are real," I asked Sergio Balanzino, deputy secretary general of the alliance.

"The concern is understandable," he answered. "We are conducting a special dialogue with Ukraine to help it as much as possible in its efforts to ensure stability in its region. At the same time, we are trying to convince Russia that the alliance's expansion is not aimed against it. Ukraine, however, has not expressed an interest in joining NATO...."

It is clear why it hasn't: Because it adheres to the non-aligned status proclaimed immediately after acquiring its independence. Mr. Balanzino's words should probably be interpreted as follows: We see your problems all right, but the most we can do is try to reach an agreement with Russia so there are no preconditions for the emergence of any "buffers".... NATO's position with regard to Ukraine is clearly defined: Of course, it would have been fine to have our relations develop further, but this is up to Kiev, not Brussels. Ukraine's striving for "special partnership" is not taken very seriously in NATO headquarters. "The Ukrainian side wants more accords, or at least formal agreements, with NATO and festive ceremonies legitimizing our relations," says Marco Carnovale [name as transliterated], Ukraine's "patron" at the political committee of the International Secretariat. "Of course, protocol is an important matter, but concrete cooperation is, after all, more important."

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Thus, instead of declarations, Ukraine is expected to make concrete steps to meet NATO halfway. So far, however, instead of the nod of consent, Ukraine gestures toward Russia, and this is perfectly understandable. Any rapprochement on our part with the alliance will prompt a sore reaction from Moscow's (incidentally, President Kuchma stated that Ukraine may, in the future, revise its nonaligned status). It appears that NATO officials are already accustomed to this position. A telling feature: During our two-day meetings with NATO officials of various ranks, all discussions of Ukraine's relations with NATO ended almost invariably with the theme "NATO-Russia." Russian elections are awaited with anxiety in Brussels. "We are now going through times when Russia's true views of NATO's expansion are concealed behind the curtain of the election propaganda," said Sergio Balanzino . "That is why we only hear negative reactions from there. I would like, however, to express my own private view: The time will come when Russia will recognize the expansion of NATO but will ask for something in exchange. It seems to me that pragmatism prevails in the thinking of Russian leaders."

Well, the pragmatism of those in power in Russia is known. But one has to wonder: Will Russia demand, in exchange for NATO expansion, that its interests be satisfied precisely in the near abroad — something that, as is believed in Moscow, NATO presently tends to ignore? Will it so happen that, having a nonaligned status, Ukraine will lose no matter how relations between NATO and Russia develop? Will we get our share of beating both in the event of a confrontation and in the event of amicable accords? The voice of one man is the voice of no one. This proverb is becoming increasingly relevant for Ukraine. If one considers the fact that two out of the three states to be admitted to NATO first are our neighbors, Hungary and Poland, Ukraine's present tactic of balancing between West and East already needs to be readjusted. Although, according to Borys Tarasyuk, Ukraine's ambassador to Belgium (one of our Embassy's functions in Brussels is to represent Ukraine in NATO), such a position made a positive impression upon the world community. This is not only indicated by "stereotyped" official statements, but also by unofficial conversations between Ukrainian diplomats and their colleagues.

We were often reproached at the alliance headquarters because very little is known in Ukraine about NATO and its tasks and because the image of this organization in the minds of many of our citizens is distorted by Soviet propaganda. On the other hand, as we could see, NATO officials themselves are not particularly well informed about Ukraine's problems and do not seem to understand the situation in which the state finds itself in view of NATO's eastward expansion. "Ukraine should not be afraid," assured Leonard Hill, who is in charge of arms control in the political committee. "It wont be necessary now or in the near future to deploy foreign troops or place nuclear weapons on the territory of new NATO members." What about the more distant future? Well, nobody seems to take Ukraine's fears seriously that it may find itself between a rock and a hard place.

It appears that Kiev will, after all, benefit from NATO expansion. "As is known, Romania has made territorial claims upon Ukraine, and at the same time that country is seeking NATO membership. Will the alliance consistently make Romania's admission conditional upon the absence of any problems with its neighbors and upon the conclusion of a fundamental political treaty with Ukraine?" I asked Marco Carnovale. "We never heard from the Romanian side that it has any claims upon Ukrainian territories," he replied. "We only know that they raise the question of border legitimacy and that this is connected with the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact. This problem must be resolved through negotiations. If Romania fails to do so, it will seriously undermine its chances of becoming a NATO member."

In conclusion, I would like to stress once more: The question of joining any system of collective security will sooner or later arise. To remain nonaligned in a geopolitical situation such as that which exists in Ukraine is not the best variant. If one looks into the future while considering today's realities, close cooperation precisely with NATO is the safest bet for Ukraine. We already had one experience of membership in other unions....

Ukraine: Legislative Delegation Completes Visit to China

WS1106131696 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1226 GMT 11 Jun 96

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ukrainian parliamentary delegation headed by Mykhaylo Pavlovskyy, head of VR [Supreme Council] commission for nuclear safety and nuclear policies and head of VR working group in charge of relations with China, concluded its working visit to Beijing, reported the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's press service. The delegation members met with a Sino-Ukrainian Friendship group recently formed in the parliament of China. They discussed the issues involving the activation of interparliamentary relations. The Ukrainian guests displayed interest in lawmaking activity of the Chinese parliament — the Chinese National People's Congress, in particular, in legislative support of economic reforms being successfully implemented

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in China. The Ukrainian delegation was received by Deputy Chairperson of the CNPC standing committee Van Bin Tsan [as received] and had a meeting at the Chinese Committee for International Trade Promotion. All the meetings were attended by Ukraine's Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to the Chinese People's Republic Anatoliy Plyushko. The Ukrainian parliamentarians visited the provincial center Sian, as well as the largest city of China Shanghai. The delegation was accompanied by representatives of Ukraine's business circles who had a series of profitable meetings with Chinese partners.

Ukraine: Seminar With France on Future Nuclear Reactors

LD1106182496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1528 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, June 11 (Interfax - Ukraine) — A French-Ukrainian seminar on nuclear reactors of the future has opened in Kiev.

Ukrainian experts, who are representatives of the state Nuclear Power Committee, NPPs and research institutes will familiarize themselves with the projects for the creation of new power units of REP-2000 type and a nuclear reactor of the 4th series. The projects will be presented by representatives of the French company Electricite de France (EDF).

French experience is of great importance for Ukraine, which will put out of operation VVER reactors early in the XXI century, because of the end of their service life. France, who has 54 PWR reactors (which are an analogue of the Ukrainian reactors of VVER type) is currently designing new types of power units.

Nowadays Ukraine has 11 VVER-1000 reactors, two VVER-440 reactors and two RBMK reactors at the Chernobyl NPP, which are to be put out of operation up to the year 2000 (in keeping with the Memorandum between Ukraine and the G-7 highly industrialized countries signed on December 20 of 1995 - IF- U). Another four VVER-1000 reactors (2nd, 3rd and 4th at the Khmelnytsky NPP and the fourth of the Rivne NPP) are under construction.

National Affairs

Ukraine: Kuchma Critical of Failure To Adopt New Constitution

LD1106185896 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma believes that the constitutional treaty between the president and the Supreme Council of Ukraine should retain its validity until a constitution is adopted. He said this at a meeting with members of the Association of Towns of Ukraine on 11 June, commenting on the legal situation that emerged after 8 June — exactly one year after the signing of the constitutional treaty — and on statements by Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz to the effect that the treaty should now be extended, otherwise the norms of the Ukrainian Constitution [of 1978] would again become valid. He said that the situation in the state would become "uncontrollable" and the socioeconomic situation would be aggravated if the Constitutional Treaty became invalid.

At the same time, the Ukrainian president criticized the Supreme Council for failure to fulfill its obligations as regards creation of favorable conditions for the adoption of a new Ukrainian constitution. Kuchma believes that "this lies, first and foremost, on the conscience of the parliament's leadership."

Ukraine: Kuchma Says Premier Free To Make Cabinet Changes

LD1206103596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1003 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, June 12 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has given newly appointed Prime Minister Pavel Lazarenko a free hand in forming his government.

Speaking at a meeting with the staff and students of the Academy of Management in Kiev on Wednesday, Kuchma said government reshuffle will continue.

He said Lazarenko is free to make new appointments, but "I told him that he will have to be responsible for them."

Kuchma also criticized Minister of Power Engineering Aleksey Sheberstov, adding that his work will be discussed by the government presidium later today.

Ukraine: Minister Advocates Arms Exports To Fund Defense Conversion

LD1106124496 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1020 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Ukraine depends on arms and military technology export, and the authorities should facilitate it, Valeriy Malov, minister of the military industrial complex, machine-building and conversion told a Supreme Council session on 11 June. He said the country needed to sell arms to compensate for cuts in the defense industry, poor financing, and a sharp decline in jobs in the military industrial complex to almost half of their original number.

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According to Malov, defense enterprises' output for military and national security needs totalled 37.7 trillion karbovantsy in 1995. Some 2 trillion karbovantsy worth of military equipment was supplied on a state contract, including 1.7 billion karbovantsy worth to Ukraine and 252 billion karbovantsy worth to Russia. Around 63,000 people, 11 percent of the defense industry workforce, were employed in military technology production. The minister said that half of all defense industry enterprises suffered no decline in their output despite the economic crisis.

The government's action program outlines the following conversion guidelines: Replacement of military output with civilian products; new product development to substitute imports; preservation of defense enterprises' productive capacity; development of military technology and arms output, sufficient to ensure Ukraine's defense capability; and continuing cooperation with Russia in the production and export of military products. The guidelines form the basis of 20 national programs in the fields of electronics, aircraft building, shipbuilding, and other areas. But the funding of these programs has been almost halved, Malov said.

The minister stressed that the government's immediate objective was to restructure defense enterprises into smaller units, operating independently on the consumer market. He suggested that about 100 enterprises could be restructured this way, including Pivdenmash [Yuzhmash, in Dnepropetrovsk], and Kiev Radio Works. Several production associations are already undergoing reorganization, such as Arsenal in Kiev, Poltava in Poltava, and the Dnepropetrovsk Machine-building Works. A list of enterprises subject to restructuring has been drafted for government approval, including those excluded from privatization under a parliament resolution.

"There is every opportunity to form an integral and balanced machine-building industry in Ukraine," using military industrial complex enterprises and research centers, Malov said. He added that the ministry would soon submit a draft resolution to the cabinet on the acceleration of structural reform at defense and machine-building enterprises.

Ukraine: High-Quality ISDN Service Now Available

WS1206084996 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0100 GMT 12 Jun 96

[By Scott R. Akin, INTELNEWS Staff Writer]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] Utel, the multinational communications joint venture in Ukraine, announced Monday successful commercial application in Kiev of ISDN high-speed, high-quality data transmission service that has become industry standard in Western Europe.

The technology will allow in Ukraine computer business applications an order of magnitude more complex, providing the dependability, quality and speed necessary for transaction processing networks such as those found in the banking industry. The high capacity of data transmission also makes available such applications as videoconferencing and services like faxing become faster with higher print quality.

The other major impact for businesses here is commercial viability of direct commercial internet access

The service, announced at Comtek Ukraine-96 computer trade show June 10-13 in Kiev, enables Utel to connect businesses in Kiev to Berlin and the ISDN network in western Europe. ISDN, integrated services digital network, is a system of switching technology that allows computer data to be transmitted at a rate of 64 kilobits per second rather than 28 kilobits per second, which is the maximum for analog telephone switching technology. ISDN allows two data stream transmissions concurrently along with a voice transmission. User don't have to have special telephone cables, but their lines must be routed through ISDN switches.

"ISDN is a universal system of communication for providing many services integrated into a digital network," Utel's statement announcing the technology. Utel representatives at Comtek Tuesday could not respond questions and Utel officials could not be reached later for comment.

One source at the exhibit indicated that Odessa would be the next region where Utel would provide ISDN service. Utel is a joint venture of UkrTelekom, U.S.-based AT&T, Deutsche Telkom, PTT of the Netherlands.

Also cooperating in the Comtek the demonstration was RAD Data Communications Ltd. supplying high-speed communications equipment. Digital Ukraine and RAD also exhibited a satellite connection directly to a commercial internet service provider. Romantis Ukraine, a private company, provided the satellite link.

Between commercial availability of ISDN and satellite links in Ukraine, direct internet services, and more dependable, should become increasingly available.

"The idea is to show people in Ukraine that internet is not something special but is now available as a very basic service," said Digital Ukraine's Network Integration Services Manager Serhiy Savenko.

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Ukraine: Sevastopol Hosts Roundtable for Crimean Tatar Problems

WS1206093396 Sevastopol SLAVA SEVASTOPOLYA in Russian 30 May 96 p 2

[Report by M. Babushkin: "We Will Live in Peace. We Have Nothing To Divide...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] **On 19 April, SLAVA SEVASTOPOLYA published Yu. Kozhukh's article "Crimea: Where Are You Going?" under the "Viewpoint" rubric. The author tried to envisage how events connected with interethnic problems will develop in Crimea.**

I will remind you that many of Kozhukh's statements sounded quite alarming. He wrote that a range of Crimean Tatar leaders have formulated both a concept for setting up a Muslim state in Crimea in the form of the Republic of Crimean Turks, and an ideology specifying that Crimean Tatars are the only sovereigns in Crimea. In Kozhukh's opinion, all this could unleash an interethnic armed conflict in Crimea.

On 26 April, the preamble to the article by V. Milodan, chairman of the Council of the National-Cultural Societies' Association in Sevastopol [ANKOS] — titled "Telling a Fortune by Admiral's Cards" — asserted that Yu. Kozhukh's article had caused a great public resonance. [He also claimed that] by publishing it SLAVA SEVASTOPOLYA aimed to disperse various rumors about Crimean Tatars' problems that are currently circulating in Crimea and that the newspaper is ready to participate in a roundtable in order to summarize the results of the dispute.

I will also remind [readers] that V. Milodan's article provided a sharp but convincing criticism of the primary tenets of Yu. Kozhukhov's article: V. Milodan said that Kozhukhov's article did not contain a single good word about the people who had managed to survive the deportation and that ANKOS will always oppose attempts to ignite national hostility in our city.

A roundtable meeting was organized by both the Directorate for Nationalities and Migration, reporting to the Sevastopol City Administration, and the ANKOS Council. Heads of national-cultural societies and regional maijlises, staff of Sevastopol law-enforcement bodies, local mass media journalists, and representatives of both the Information Group of the Crimean Tatars's National Movement and Simferopol University participated in it. The roundtable proposed to discuss ways to strengthen the interethnic accord in the city and to make these problems public through the mass media.

Defending his positions, Yu. Kozhukh stressed that the main tenets of his article are based on newspaper publications, radio and television broadcasts, and statements by a number of leaders of the Crimean Tatar National Movement. He refuted that his article is fanning national hostility. The aim of the article was to attract the attention of Ukrainian and Russian leaders to potential negative developments which are hazardous to Crimean peace and stability.

But many participants severely criticized Yu. Kozhukh's article.

S. Abdishayeva, chairman of the Gagarin District Regional Maijlis said: "Often we had to hear accusations of treason, but we have not betrayed anyone; we lived and will live in peace with other Crimean peoples. My father and two brothers fought against fascists. Not Crimean Tatars in general, but some of their leaders are issuing inflammatory statements. Yu. Kozhukh's article is of a provocative nature."

L. Bilyalova, head of the Sevastopol Center for the Revival of Crimean Tatar Culture: "First of all, we are not settlers, but people who have returned to our native land. We are not Turks, as they try to call us. The author makes an attempt to create a stereotype of a Crimean Tatar, claiming that he is an individual who did nothing but fought with his sword and betrayed everyone; he also tries to prove that we can be a source of military conflict. None of this is true."

E. Resulyev, chairman of the "Munnever" Muslim community: "We are being warned that a Muslim state will be created in Crimea, but this is practically impossible. Such articles cause fear: 'Be aware, Islam is approaching!' One should not frighten people with what does not exist."

N. Selimov, Sevastopol Regional Maijlis chairman: "In essence, the article opposes human rights. Why can Criman Tatars have no right to have their own state, which will observe international laws and not violate other nation's rights?"

Here is an opinion by **R. Kasayev, a section chief in the Center for Problems of Establishing the Crimean Republic:** "One cannot manipulate Maijlis's opinion. Any attempt to identify Maijlis leaders with Crimean Tatars is wrong. All issues connected with placing 'warring nation' and 'aggressor' labels on us have been fabricated. Crimean Tatars have come here not to fight but to live. They have no interest in waging a war."

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Heads of national-cultural societies Yu. Ilyin, I. Yamshchik, V. Heynrikh, S. Aliyyev, A. Neferidi, and "Bakynets" club chairman V. Alfimov also expressed their opinion of Yu. Kozhukh's article. They said that one cannot stir up ordinary people by alleged threats from Crimean Tatars, create the "image of an enemy," and play off people of various nationalities against one another."

F. Nedzhmetdinova, head of the Department of Deported Peoples, spoke about the problems of Crimean Tatars who live in Sevastopol and its suburban villages. Many Tatars who have not yet received land plots are living in temporary buildings and have great difficulties in obtaining jobs and registering their passports. Issues pertaining to allocating broadcasting time for their national studio, rendering aid to restore a mosque which has architectural value, and allocating land plots for Muslim cemeteries have not been resolved.

Prosecutor's Office representative S. Hura said that interethnic issues must also be resolved within the framework of the law. If the law is violated, if human rights are encroached upon, the Prosecutor's Office is ready to interfere with such cases and render its assistance.

N. Mahdych, chief of the National Security Service press center in Sevastopol, stressed that a range of the tenets of this article, as well as of other similar publications, were presented in a distorted light, falsifying facts which had been taken from unproven sources, and were based on dubious and unprofessional articles in newspapers.

Other participants also spoke a great deal about the accountability of the press; they stressed that any careless word about one nation or another not only affects the people, but can also lead to serious consequences. Mass media — including SLAVA SEVASTOPOLYA — must more thoroughly and objectively deal with problems of interethnic relations and pay more attention to them.

"Crimea is our common home. Let us live in peace and stop all attempts to have us fall out with one another; let us help one another." This was the primary concept expressed by the roundtable.

Economic Issues

Ukraine: Government Debate on Coal Problems Viewed

WS1106092096 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 1 Jun 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by Volodymyr Ilchenko: "The Presidential Commission Is Being Implemented"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Yesterday [31 May] Ukrainian president Leonid Kuchma listened to a report delivered by the head of the Ukrainian Government on overcoming the crisis phenomena in the coal industry in Donetsk and Lugansk Oblasts' enterprises.**

At the Ukrainian president's request, 6 trillion karbovantsi [K] have been allocated for the purchase of domestic coal envisaged for the state reserve, and an additional K3.5 trillion have been allocated from the fuel-energy complex fund for the payment of miners' wages.

The president underlined that the transfer of funds to every single coal enterprise will be supervised on a daily basis. To implement this, at the president's request, two governmental groups have been established led by Deputy Prime Ministers Vasyl Durdynets and Vasyl Yevtukhov, who have departed for Ukraine's coal-mining regions to resolve the specific problems in the provinces directly with the staffs of coal mines.

The president hailed the timely measures undertaken by the government regarding support for domestic producers, technical development of the industry, and support for domestic extraction of coal.

Following the president's instructions, given after his trip to Donbass, the coal industry's problems were discussed at a meeting held by Prime Minister Lazarenko on 30 May. Officials, heads of oblast state administrations, city council chairmen, managers of coal amalgamations and mines, bankers, representatives of trade unions and strike committees all participated in this meeting.

The prime minister called on the participants to speak openly and maintain constructive cooperation "to avoid power plays." The government has undertaken measures for the timely regulation and resolution of problems in the coal industry.

The government has made a kind of untraditional move: The aforementioned K6 trillion will be fully used to pay wages without any deductions from the budget. Besides, the prime minister said that K2 trillion will

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be transferred for subsidizing the coal industry. Over K10 trillion will be received by the end of this week.

The government is establishing favorable conditions for extracting coal. As we know, the coal industry is regarded as one that needs subsidies. However, the rules of the game should be determined: Who is entitled to subsidies, how much they should receive, and what kind of subsidies should be earmarked per tonne of coal.

According to Coal Industry Minister Serhiy Polyakov, in conformity with the president's edict, enterprises with the status of legal persons have been created on the basis of structural units of production amalgamations; the list of enterprises which are subject to corporatization has been approved, as well as the schedule for its implementation; the pricing procedure in the coal industry for situations when domestic prices may exceed world prices has been developed.

S. Polyakov said that the debt for unpaid wages has not increased during 1996 and remains at the level of K38 trillion.

The minister warned the managers of amalgamations and mines to "more strictly work with consumers" given that not only state enterprises, but also commercials structures are among those who had not paid for delivered coal.

Finance Minister Petro Hermanchuk reminded that the coal industry's problems exacerbated in 1991 after the passage of the resolution on nonsubsidized operations. The minister believes that this was an erroneous decision. This error was corrected by the governmental resolution issued on 16 May. By now the government has met all the budgetary obligations to the industry: From the K133 trillion which were earmarked from the state budget for the coal industry over K40 trillion has already been allocated, which constitutes approximately 30 percent of the total sum. Meanwhile, the national economy as a whole has so far received 24 percent of the total sum. Petro Hermanchuk expressed the necessity to look for an effective way of using K35 trillion which are to be earmarked from the budget in accordance with the resolution on rendering assistance for extracting the envisioned amount of coal.

The main financier is concerned about the replenishment of the fuel-energy complex's fund. Only K5.8 trillion were obtained by the end of 1995 out of K108 trillion envisaged by the fund. He said: "We should not even dream of receiving the whole sum."

Hermanchuk is firmly convinced that the state cannot take on the burden of wage arrears. This problem should be resolved by commodity producers themselves by means of securities or deposits.

Economy Minister Vasyl Hureyev was tasked with resolving issues related to handing over the coal industry's social sphere facilities to municipal authorities. The minister reported that enterprises had coordinated the schedules for the transfer of these kinds of facilities with local administration bodies. Some K15 trillion will be allocated from the budget for this purpose. Around 11 percent of funds acquired from privatization will serve as one of the sources for financing this process. V. Hureyev emphasized the need to exercise control over the use of these funds.

The issue of the implementation of Article 4 of the governmental resolution was also discussed at the meeting. In accordance with this article, in 1996 coal enterprises should acquire from the banking system a technical loan amounting to K17 trillion, the repayment of which will be guaranteed by the Finance Ministry. The loan will be repaid in the first half of 1997 from the budgetary funds and will be used to gear mining pits.

Prominvestbank [Industrial Investment Bank] Chairman Volodymyr Matviyenko quite emotionally assessed the possibility of this move. According to him, currently only 10 mines can take and repay loans. V. Matviyenko believes that financial order should be restored in the state. Mines have up to K5 trillion on their banks accounts which could be used for the payment of wages; imperfect commercial banks are being established. The Prominvestbank chairman called for the development of a mechanism for reinstating barter deals, in particular through the implementation of monetary reform, as well as for the creation of the state investment fund to support the priority directions of economic development. V. Matviyenko was supported by Volodymyr Stelmakh, deputy chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine. However, he assured that the necessary funds will be allocated from the banking system.

According to Industrial Minister Valeriy Mazur, the structural transformation of the coal industry should be coordinated with the requirements of the metallurgical complex, which is a consumer of coal. According to him, prices should be fixed at a level which is not higher than world prices. We cannot allow a decentralization of coke coal markets, otherwise the quality of this kind of coal will worsen.

All those who took the floor agreed on one thing: If the aforementioned governmental resolution will be implemented the situation will improve. However, as deputy Prime Minister Vasyl Yevtukhov stated, not only the government, but also leaders of local administration bodies and enterprises should help correct the earlier mistakes. Otherwise, the funds envisaged for supporting

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the industry will also be of no help. The payments crisis remains the most crucial problem. V. Yevtukhov raised the following question: What should we do with those who will never pay? This is a closed circle: The energy sector does not pay the coal sector since enterprises do not pay them for consumed energy. Meanwhile, they spend funds on the development of the social infrastructure. V. Yevtukhov said that it is useless to deliver energy to these kinds of debtors. According to him, the state, as an owner, should participate in the resolution of the wage problems, as well as the problem of retroactive payment of wages.

Naturally, the problem of wage arrears was a prevailing topic of speeches of the leaders of coal enterprises, representatives of trade unions, and strike committees. One of the trade unions' representative said: We renounced strikes and are attempting to endorse the path of civilized cooperation with the government. He said that the state, as the owner, should take care of coal enterprises.

There were calls for: the renovation of state contracts, the alleviation of penalty sanctions for exceeding consumption funds, the determination of privileged railroad tariffs for the transport of coal, and the allocation of funds for the maintenance of the social sphere during wintertime. According to one enterprise leader, the increase in wholesale prices in 1995 played a positive role, on the one hand, but on the other hand, this move scared off consumers, who give preferences to coal imported from Poland or Russia.

While summarizing the results of the meeting, the prime minister underlined that the current situation of the coal industry is extraordinary. It may be regarded as the starting point from which the resolution of miners' problems should move forward.

The head of the government placed an emphasis on the uniqueness of the decision to transfer K6 trillion for the repayment of wages without any deductions to the budget and asked state administration leaders in coal regions to implement this decision. The government will develop a mechanism for purchasing 5.5 million tonnes of coal for the state reserve by the middle of September. Some 50 percent of the coal reserve has been purchased already. This reserve is envisaged for winter, and not for current use. The appropriate governmental document will be passed in which the State Reserve will be entrusted with appropriate tasks. It is necessary to maximally use the energy produced by nuclear stations while the use of energy produced by thermal stations should be reduced to a minimum given that the cost of energy produced at thermal stations is 1.6-fold higher.

The prime minister emphasized that the government is utilizing the spending portion of the budget in a competent manner with regard to the coal industry. The debts to the miners will continuously be repaid in accordance with an enhanced schedule. Approximately K8 trillion will be allocated every month for the needs of the coal industry.

We have to clearly determine which enterprises will be subsidized by the state. Some 30 mines which are subject to shutdowns have separate funds. However, as for the remaining 236 mines, it is necessary to decide which of them will receive funds from the expenditures envisaged in the budget. We cannot assess all of them in the same manner. Some are in better condition: Their coal deposits are not located very deeply and their corridors are not that steep; therefore, the costs of extraction are lower. Such enterprises as, for instance, the "Pavlohradvuhillya" amalgamation can do without subsidies. In essence, the K40 trillion which were scattered all over the mines virtually produced no results. It would be better if not all of them received bits, but if those who really need assistance received more considerable funds. Coal sold to commercial structures and sent abroad will not be subsidized.

Thus, having recognized that the coal industry needs subsidies, we should determine clear rules of the game: Not everyone should be paid, but only those who really need assistance. The state simply cannot afford assisting all of them. As of 29 May, the state's deposits on all the correspondent accounts amounted to just K49 trillion.

Responsibility for the transfer of social sphere facilities to municipal subordination will rest solely with Finance Minister V. Hureyev. It is necessary to transfer these facilities in their entirety and within the shortest period of time. We should not drag this process out. Otherwise, the extortion of state money to assist them will never end.

As for the shutdown of mines, it was pointed out at the session that beginning on 1 June the first K1 trillion will be allocated for this purpose.

The loans for mines will be issued by four commercial banks, in particular the Prominvestbank. Some K17 trillion will be used for the development of pits. Thus, this money will be used to assist domestic producers, and not Polish or Russian ones. Those funds will be allocated for development, and not for consumption purposes.

The prime minister emphasized that the debts to miners will be repaid either via allocating credits for industrial enterprises or from funds earned from selling their products.

The head of government said that he had collected all the information regarding mines and was able to

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analyze their capabilities, such as: output volumes, wholesale prices, production costs, profitability, labor efficiency, wages, and the like. Overstated production costs are a particularly annoying issue. These costs include materials purchased at higher than average prices, such as fuel. These indicators will be the primary issue of the meeting between the prime minister and miners, which will be held on a weekly basis.

The prime minister appealed to miners: While pointing at the government, think about the fact that responsibility for the situation in the coal industry is evenly divided between the state and coal enterprises, in a 50/50 ratio. The government is meeting its obligations, which it took on according to the 16 May resolution. However, enterprise managers should also make every effort to improve the situation, ranging from the restoration of elementary order to undertaking measures to decrease production costs.

The prime minister appealed to the media with a request to inform the population that the government will support domestic producers by subsidizing the production of coal, as well as of steel-ore concentrate, scrap metal, and the like. A number of appropriate measures will be undertaken in the immediate future for this purpose. Currently, scarce scrap metal, whose price stands at $30-37 per tonne, is being shipped abroad in large quantities. We have determined a price for scrap metal — to become valid as of 1 June — which will make its export unprofitable. Thus, by rendering assistance and developing the pricing mechanism, the government is pursuing a consistent policy of protecting domestic producers.

Ukraine: Law on Crimean 1996 Budget

964F2329B Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 May 96 p 1

[Text of Autonomous Republic of Crimea Law No. 801-1 dated 23 May 1996, "On the Republic Budget of Crimea for 1996," signed by Chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea Ye. Suprunyuk in Simferopol]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Council of Crimea **HEREBY DECREES:**

Article 1. That the republic budget of Crimea for 1996 on income in the sum of 60,320,636.5 million karbovantsy and expenditures in the sum of 60,320,636.5 million karbovantsy shall be approved.

Article 2. The income portion of the republic budget for 1996 by basic types of revenues shall be established in the following sums:

No.	Type of Revenue	Million Karbovantsy
1.	Value-added tax	18,699,166.6
2.	Tax on profits of enterprises and organizations held in all forms of ownership	8,066,892.3
3.	Excise fees	1,673,060.2
4.	Income tax from citizens, from budget institutions and organizations held in republic ownership of Crimea, and deductions from income tax revenues to the budgets of cities and rayons	4,927,471.6
5.	Payment for land	79,760.8
6.	State duty	23,436
7.	Revenues from privatization of property of state enterprises and organizations held in republic ownership	2,101,920
	including: supplemental assignment to Property Fund of Autonomous Republic of Crimea	2,000,000
8.	Fees, various non-tax income and other revenues	2,860,909
9.	Income from foreign economic activity	2,500,000

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No.	Type of Revenue	Million Karbovantsy
10.	Revenues from sale of republic domestic loan bonds	500,000
11.	Labor protection fund	622,540
12.	Supplemental assignment for involving tax inspectorates and sections for combating criminal concealment of income from taxation in collecting taxes and fees to budgets, for provision of expenditures for social protection of the population	5,865,480
13.	Supplemental assignment to ministries and state committees of Crimea for collecting to the budget the funds received from the increase in tax revenues from economic subjects entering into the sphere of administration of ministries and state committees	11,400,000
14.	Supplemental assignment to the Republic of Crimea Ministry of Trade, Foreign Economic Relations and Protection of Consumer Rights on collecting supplemental income to the budget through creation of the state wholesale-trade company	1,000,000

Article 3. The expenditure portion of the republic budget for 1996 shall be established in accordance with the following directions:

No.	Type of Expenditure	Million Karbovantsy
1.	Social protection of the population - total	7,956,175
1.1.	State aid to families with children	22,883
1.2.	Expenditures for payment of benefits to war veterans and workers of customs agencies	234,406
1.3.	Social provision (support of boarding houses for elderly and invalids)	1,009,058
1.4.	Subsidy for provision of state regulation of prices and tariffs - total	6,273,828
Including:		
	for coal to the Krymtoplivo association	787,600
	for thermal power to AO [joint-stock company] Krymteplokommunenergo	2,071,478
	for purchase of fuel for departmental boiler facilities	150,000
	for transit on city electrical transport to Crimean Trolley Administration	663,005
	transit on city and suburban passenger automotive transport to TPO [transport production association] Krymavtotrans	1,339,745

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No.	Type of Expenditure	Million Karbovantsy
	natural gas	1,262,000
1.5.	Compensation of expenditures associated with liberalization of prices in construction of housing, for ZhSK [house-building combines]	416,000
2.	Financing social-cultural institutions and measures-total	23,186,166
Including:		
2.1.	Education	7,612,024
2.2	Culture and mass media	1,981,780
Including:		
	for broadcasting programs of Public Russian Television	145,200
	for creation of joint-stock television-radio company Crimean Republic Television (KRT)	48,500
2.3.	Restoration-protective work on historical and cultural monuments	150,000
2.4	Protection of health	13,083,809
	including centralized fund for acquisition of medical equipment and medicines	250,000
2.5.	Physical culture (for holding republic sporting events)	194,531
2.6.	Youth programs	164,022
3.	Science (financing scientific-research work on seismology, scientific-technical library, TsNTI [Center for Scientific-Technical Information])	82,329
4.	State capital investments for housing-municipal and social- cultural construction	3,100,600
	including state capital investments for program of returning deported peoples to Crimea	100,000
5.	Financing the national economy - total	4,592,871
Including:		
5.1.	Agriculture (veterinary network, hail protection service)	201,131
5.2.	Water management (ongoing maintenance of irrigation systems)	3,600,400
5.3.	State Committee on Land Resources (for implementing land reform)	13,700
5.4.	Housing-municipal management (avalanche prevention and riverbank reinforcement work, illumination of inter-city trolley route)	212,500
5.5.	Architecture (monument restoration)	6,374

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No.	Type of Expenditure	Million Karbovantsy
5.6.	Road management	278,871
5.7.	Other expenditures (maintenance of water rescue service, compensation for cost of gasoline for transporting students to rural schools, for acquisition of firefighting equipment to combat forest fires, coverage of losses from provision of bath-laundry services to the public, work on improving electrical supply to the population)	279,895
6.	Expenditures for maintaining agencies of the legislative and executive branches - total	2,089,278
Including:		
	legislative branch	961,013
	executive branch	1,128,265
7.	Expenditures for maintenance of Central Electoral Commission	2,940
8.	Maintenance of staff headquarters and courses in civil defense	71,000
9.	Maintenance of institutions of the law enforcement agencies	499,623
	including the municipal militia	—
10.	Expenditures for radical improvement of lands, economic improvement of agricultural enterprises	500,000
11.	Credit for purchase of fruit and vegetable products for budget institutions for the fall-winter period	5,000
12.	Expenditures for preparations for the res season	200,000
13.Goverament of Crimea reserve fund	310,000	
14.	Other expenditures - total	34,031
Including:		
	expenditures for mobilization training	5,800
	maintenance of council of veterans	610
	representative's expenditures	18,500
	maintenance of buildings of UN and CSCE representations	1,500
	Center for Regional Development	7,621
15.	Expenditures associated with provision of guarantees on short-term credits granted to subjects of entrepreneurial activity	5,120,500
16.	Funds subject to transfer to the state budget of Ukraine	10,736,000
Including:		

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No.	Type of Expenditure	Million Karbovantsy
	for maintenance of military cities from which military units of the Black Sea Fleet have been relocated, and certification of airport complexes	2,400,000
	for financing programs for return of deported peoples to Crimea	4,200,000
17.	Funds subject to transfer to budgets of individual rayons	1,211,583.5
18.	Labor Protection Fund	622,540

Article 4. The standard deductions from all-state taxes and fees to budgets of cities and rayons for 1996 shall be ratified in the following amounts (in percent):

No.	Names of Cities and Rayons	Tax on Profits of Enterprises and Organizations Held in All-State Ownership*	Excise Fees	Value-Added Tax	Income Tax From Citizens
Cities:					
1.	Simferopol	10	10	14.1	90
2.	Kerch	30	10	51.7	50
3.	Yalta	10	10	44.7	10
4.	Yevpatoriya	10	10	7.3	20
5.	Feodosiya	10	10	34.4	50
6.	Alushta	10	10	5.3	10
7.	Dzhankoy	10	10	25.2	50
8.	Krasnoperekopsk	10	10	26.7	50
9.	Saki	10	10	10.3	10
10.	Sudak	10	30	19.6	50
11.	Armyansk	20	20	62.9	50
Rayons:					
12.	Bakhchisaraskiy	70	80	25.0	100
13.	Belogorskiy	100	100	100	100
14.	Dzhankoyskiy	100	100	100	100
15.	Kirovskiy	100	100	100	100
16.	Krasnogvardeyskiy	100	100	100	100
17.	Krasnoperekopskiy	100	100	100	100
18.	Leninskiy	100	100	100	100
19.	Nizhnegorskiy	100	100	100	100

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No.	Names of Cities and Rayons	Tax on Profits of Enterprises and Organizations Held in All-State Ownership*	Excise Fees	Value-Added Tax	Income Tax From Citizens
20.	Pervomayskiy	100	100	100	100
21.	Razdolnenskiy	100	100	100	100
22.	Simferopolskiy	100	100	100	100
23.	Sakskiy	100	100	100	100
24.	Sovetskiy	100	100	100	100
25.Chernomorskiy	100	100	82.3	100	

* Including lease payments based on this property, enterprises with foreign investments of foreign legal entities performing activity through permanent representations, as well as income from banking and insurance activity.

It shall be established that, in changing the forms of ownership and subordination of payers of tax on profits in the course of 1996, the order of deducting the given tax to the appropriate budgets remains unchanged until the end of the year.

Article 5. Banking institutions shall perform deductions from the tax on profits, the value-added tax, the excise fees, and the income tax from individuals received from enterprises and organizations of cities and rayons to the republic budget in the following amounts (in percent):

No.	Names of Cities and Rayons	Tax on Profits of Enterprises and Organizations Held in All-State Ownership*	Excise Fees	Value-Added Tax	Income Tax From Citizens
Cities:					
1.	Simferopol	90	90	85.9	10
2.	Kerch	70	90	48.3	50
3.	Yalta	90	90	55.3	90
4.	Yevpatoriya	90	90	92.7	80
5.	Feodosiya	90	90	65.5	50
6.	Alushta	90	90	94.7	90
7.	Dzhankoy	90	90	74.8	50
8.	Krasnoperekopsk	90	90	73.3	50
9.	Saki	90	90	89.7	90
10.	Sudak	90	70	80.4	50
11.	Armyansk	80	80	37.1	50
Rayons:					
12.	Bakhchisvarskiy	30	20	75.0	
13.	Belogorskiy	—	—	—	—
14.	Dzhankoyskiy	—	—	—	—

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No.	Names of Cities and Rayons	Tax on Profits of Enterprises and Organizations Held in All-State Ownership*	Excise Fees	Value-Added Tax	Income Tax From Citizens
15.	Kirovskiy	-	—	—	—
16.	Krasnogvardeyskiy	—	—	—	—
17.	Krasnoperekopskiy	—	—	—	—
18.	Leninskiy	—	—	—	—
19.	Nizhnegorskiy	—	—	—	—
20.	Pervomayskiy	—	—	—	—
21.	Razdolnenskiy	—	—	—	—
22.	Simferopolskiy	—	—	—	—
23.	Sakskiy	—	—	—	—
24.	Sovetskiy	—	—	—	—
25.	Chernomorskiy	—	—	17.7	—

*Including lease payments based on this property, enterprises with foreign investments, foreign legal entities performing activity through permanent representations, as well as income from banking and insurance activity.

Article 6. It shall be established that payment for land shall be credited to the budgets of cities in the amount of 60 percent, and to the budgets of rayons—80 percent.

Article 7. The amount of cash turnover in the republic budget shall be established in the amount of 75,235 million karbovantsy.

Article 8. The Government of Crimea shall introduce the appropriate changes into the republic budget of Crimea after amendment of the tax legislation in regard to payment for land.

Article 9. Subsidies to budgets of individual rayons shall be ratified within the complement of expenditures of the republic budget, in the sum of 1,211,583.5 million karbovantsy, for financing expenditures of local budgets which are not covered by the income. These include:

No.	Name of Rayon	Million Karbovantsy
1.	Belogorskiy	30,013.0
2.	Dzhankoyskiy	109,585.7
3.	Kirovskiy	79,951.0
4.	Krasnogvardeyskiy	36,120.6
5.	Krasnoperekopskiy	260,539.0
6.	Leninskiy	77,347.0
7.	Pervomayskiy	153,681.0
8.	Razdolnenskiy	50,174.4
9.	Simferopolskiy	127,370.2
10.	Sakskiy	103,891.6
11.	Sovetskiy	182,910.0

Article 10. The funds subject to transfer to the republic budget for financing all-state expenditures of Ukraine shall be ratified within the complement of expenditures of the city budgets in the following amounts:

No.	Name of City	Million Karbovantsy
1.	Simferopol	800,000
2.	Yalta	400,000
3.	Yevpatoriya	300,000
4.	Feodosiya	300,000
5.	Alushta	150,000

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No.	Name of City	Million Karbovantsy
6.	Dzhankoy	70,000
7.	Krasnoperekopsk	100,000
8.	Saki	60,000
9.	Sudak	70,000
10.	Armyansk	100,000

The Autonomous Republic of Crimea Ministry of Finance shall be granted the right to collect from the local organs of the executive branch, in uncontested order, the indebtedness to the republic budget on financing the all-state expenditures of Ukraine, as well as on loans issued for financing first priority expenditures.

Article 11. It shall be established that the extrabudgetary funds of the local soviets shall be included in 1996 into the appropriate local budgets, with the exception of those to which deduction is not mandatory in accordance with the legislation of Ukraine, without changing their purposeful application.

Article 12. It shall be established that supplemental expenditures, in accordance with the decisions of local soviets of all levels, may be implemented only under the condition that they find supplemental financial resources in the appropriate budgets.

Article 13. It shall be established that, in those cases when subjects of legislative initiative or other agencies submit proposals to the Supreme Council of Crimea or the Government of Crimea regarding the granting of benefits on taxation of enterprises or organizations or the allocation of supplemental budget allocations, they must at the same time also introduce proposals aimed at the appropriate replenishment of income or reduction of expenditures of the republic budget.

Article 14. In fulfillment of the Law of Ukraine, "On the Budget System of Ukraine," the collection of budget funds by higher councils from subordinate ones, which is not provided in the effective legislation, is not permitted.

Article 15. As an experiment, the formulation of draft budgets for the cities of Simferopol, Yalta, Yevpatoriya, and Kerch shall be performed on the basis of agreements on budget interrelations between the executive organs of power of these cities and the Government of Crimea.

Ukraine: Decree on Crimean 1996 Budget

964F2329A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 May 96 p 1

[Text of Decree of Supreme Council of Crimea: "On Implementation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea Law No. 802-1, dated 23 May 1996, 'On the Republic Budget of Crimea for 1996'," signed by the chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea Ye. Suprunyuk in Simferopol]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Council of Crimea **HEREBY DECREES:**

1. That the Law of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, "On the Republic Budget of Crimea for 1996," be implemented from the day of its publication.

2. The Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea shall, prior to 1 June 1996, appeal to the Supreme Council of Ukraine with a proposal to introduce changes and amendments into the Law of Ukraine, "On the Budget System," providing for legislative securement of contractual relations in the budget sphere between the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Ukraine based on the transfer from the republic of a specified share of income formulated on its territory from all types of taxes and nontax payments of economic subjects and the population, for the purpose of financing the all-state expenditures. Also, the people's deputies of Ukraine elected from the Autonomous Republic of Crimea shall be asked to introduce the above-stated proposals in the order of legislative initiative to the Supreme Council of Ukraine.

3. The Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea and the Government of Crimea shall be assigned the task of appealing to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine with a proposal on the immediate performance of a recomputation of the sum of monies subject to transfer in 1996 from the republic budget of Crimea to the state budget of Ukraine, in connection with the reduced income or increased expenditures of the republic budget of Crimea in 1996, formulated as a result of:

—granting by the organs of state power of Ukraine of benefits in payments for land to a number of land users, among which are the Armed Forces of Ukraine, including the health treatment institutions of this department, which entailed a reduction in the income to the republic budget by a sum of 4.9 trillion karbovantsy;
—introducing unjustifiably inflated prices on natural gas extracted in Crimea, which leads to additional expenditures of the republic budget of Crimea by a sum of over 2 trillion karbovantsy;

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—crediting to the state budget of Ukraine of funds received from the re-appraisal of grain procured in Crimea from funds allocated by the republic in 1995, which entailed a loss of income to the republic budget of Crimea in the sum of 300 million karbovantsy;
—underestimating the accounting budget standards on payment of housing subsidies and other expenditures of the republic budget, which led to unjustifiably exceeding the level of income and deduction to the state budget of Ukraine of 30 percent of the payment for land and 30 percent of the tax on profits of enterprises related to all-state property, as well as rent payments, which altogether reduces the income to the republic budget by 5 trillion karbovantsy.

4. The Government of Crimea shall be assigned the following tasks:

—prior to 1 June 1996, to work out with the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine a mechanism of action on budget interrelations between the governments of Ukraine and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea for 1996;
—prior to 1 June 1996, to introduce for ratification to the Supreme Council of Crimea a list of integral property complexes of enterprises and health treatment institutions, as well as packets of shares in joint-stock companies held in republic ownership, which may be used as payment for deliveries of power resources to Crimea from the Russian Federation, as well as from the enterprises of Ukraine (if the power resources are the property of these enterprises), or aimed at the structural reorganization of priority directions of the republic's economy;
—prior to 1 July 1996, to develop in conjunction with the executive committees of the city soviets a list of public health and educational facilities on the basis of which institutions of public health and education providing paid services to the population must be developed no later than 1 September 1996;
—to include in the expenditure portion of the republic budget of Crimea for 1996 the expenditures for maintaining the social infrastructure of military cities, certification, or the aircraft pool, reequipment of airport complexes transferred to ownership of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, while at the same time reducing the sum of deductions for financing the all-state expenditures of Ukraine by 2.4 trillion karbovantsy;
—to finance the integrated program of designing general plans for development of the republic's population centers by a sum of 13 billion karbovantsy;
—to appeal to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine with a proposal on reducing prices on electrical power supplied to the population in houses which do not have natural gas to the level specified for apartments equipped with electric hot plates, and also to determine the possibility of this type of subsidy on prices for electrical power at the expense of sums subject to transfer to the state budget of Ukraine;
—to ensure financing of expenditures for providing broadcasting of the television programs of the Crimean Republic and Russian Public Television at the expense of the extrabudgetary fund of the Government of Crimea in 1996, in the sum of 102 billion karbovantsy;
—to allocate funds for compensation of loss to citizens who have suffered as a result of insolvency of insurance companies, in the sum of 150 billion karbovantsy and at the expense of reducing the sums subject to transfer to the state budget of Ukraine for financing all-state expenditures, with subsequent compensation of these budget expenditures by the debtors of the insurance companies;
—prior to 1 June 1996, to dissolve lease agreements with industrial enterprises which have not ensured fulfillment of lease conditions;
—prior to 1 August 1996, to develop and implement a statute on authorized banks of the Government of Crimea from among the banks registered on the territory of the republic in the capacity of legal entities;
—to continue the economic experiment on formulation and fulfillment of the budget of one of the rayons of the Republic of Crimea in 1996-1997 in accordance with the conditions specified in the Supreme Council of Crimea Decree No. 656-1, dated 21 December 1995, "On the Economic Experiment in Taxation of Legal Entities."

5. For purposes of improving the manageability of the national economic complex of the republic, management of leased enterprises, as well as of packets of shares in joint-stock companies formed on the basis of state ownership and belonging to the state, shall be handed over to the sectorial ministries and departments which are included in the structure of the Government of Crimea.

6. The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Crimea shall be assigned the following tasks:

—to develop a set of measures on issuing domestic republic loan bonds;
—in conjunction with the Republic Insurance Agency (RESTRA), to develop conditions and, as of 15 June 1996, to introduce insurance of citizens coming to Crimea on vacation, as well as of motor transport entering Crimea from other regions.

7. The Ministry of Finance and the State Tax Inspectorate of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and the Crimean Republic Committee of the Ministry of Statistics of Ukraine shall be assigned the task of developing

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and implementing, as of 1 July 1996, a system of up-to-date statistical information for the republic and local organs of power regarding payments to the budget by subjects of economic activity, with a breakdown by sectors, regions and primary budget-forming enterprises.

8. The Permanent Commission on Economic and Budget-Finance Policy of the Supreme Council of Crimea shall be assigned the task of introducing the practice of monthly hearing of reports by managers of cities and rayons which have allowed delays in fulfillment of control indicators of the republic and local budgets.

9. The Government of Crimea shall be assigned the task of submitting in September of 1996 to the Supreme Council of Crimea a conception of the republic budget of Crimea for 1997.

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Belarus

Belarus: EU Council Urged To Delay Trade Agreement With Belarus

LD1206103796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1020 GMT 12 Jun 96

[By Aleksandr Mineyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BRUSSELS, June 12 (Itar-Tass) — The European parliament's commission for external policy and security affairs has unanimously urged the Council of the European Union to delay coming into effect of the temporary trade agreement signed by the European Union and Belarus.

The commission ruled that the agreement must not come into force until situation with the observance of human rights and principles of democracy in Belarus shows signs of improvement.

Members of the European parliament think that Minsk violates the corresponding article of the agreement, according to which trade privileges in relations with the EU are dependent on the political situation.

A member of the European parliament, Elizabeth Schroedter, who proposed the above move, reminded of the April and May arrests of representatives of the Belarusian opposition and accused Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka of authoritarian rule, imposing limitations on freedom of press and suppressing opposition by force.

Belarus: Lukashenka: People's Will Led To Integration With Russia

LD1106153396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, June 11 (Interfax-West) — Belarussian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has emphasized the role of the wishes of the Belarusian and Russian peoples in the process of integration between the two states.

It was not the merit of the Belarusian and Russian presidents "but their realistic position, which took into account the innermost thoughts and wishes of their peoples," that made possible the achievements in the sphere of the Belarusian-Russian integration, Lukashenka said in an interview with the magazine Belarusskaya Dumka (Belarusian Thought).

"While deepening the interstate cooperation with Russia, it is necessary to constantly compare the anticipated result with the price which one will have to pay for these or those integration decisions," Lukashenka said.

"However, the desire of the Belarusian and Russian peoples for unity is caused not by historic and spiritual reasons but by precisely defined economic requirements," he said.

"In the creation of an interstate union of a new type the parties will adhere to the agreement stating that the republics will preserve their statehood and sovereignty," he said. "These valuables will remain with us for ever," Lukashenka said.

He is dissatisfied with the pace of integration within the Commonwealth of Independent States. "The CIS has developed inconsistently and controversially from the moment of its creation," he said. "At first many leaders of the republics had a euphoric perception that all the problems of re-integration of the economic space would be solved quickly with the help of the CIS. When the euphoria passed many objectively thinking politicians understood that the development of integration is a great labor and serious work set by political will," he said.

Lukashenka connects the loss of "the most important thing, the market," with the collapse of the USSR: "Enterprises are overloaded with manufactured goods and there is nowhere to sell cars, machine-tools, textile industry goods produced by people.

"The five years following this civilized 'divorce' have persuaded us that the world market does not eagerly await the post-Soviet states with their uncompetitive products," Lukashenka said.

To this end he is convinced that "a movement toward a voluntary integration of principally new type is being formed in CIS states, CIS states are moving toward integration with different pace and with different desire."

Belarus: President, Kazakh Official Stress Union of Four Integration

WS1206090096 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As chairman of the Inter-State Council of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, Alyaksandr Lukashenka met on 11 June with the chairman of the Integration Committee of those countries, Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister Nigmetzhan Isingarin. During their conversation, much attention was attached to issues connected with the practical implementation of the quadrilateral treaty and expansion of the integration. According to Isingarin, thanks to the removal of custom[illegible] barriers, Kazakhstan increased its trade with Belarus by 35 percent and with Russia by 45 percent. Speaking about prospects of the union of four after 16 June [date of Russian presidential election], the Integration Committee noted that the integration processes should continue to develop. He

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also emphasized that a preliminary agenda of the first Integration Committee session, set for 26 July, had already been devised.

Belarus: Oil Extraction Declines; Reasons Cited

WS1106084996 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0657 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, 10 June — The volume of oil extracted over the first 5 months of this year totalled 775,986 tonnes or 96.2 percent of the indicator of the same period of the previous year. According to information received from the Belnaftapradukt concern, the reduction was planned. Experts say that this year the production amalgamation "Belarusnafta" will extract 1,858,000 tonnes of oil (in 1995 this figure was 1,932,000). Among the main reasons for the expected reduction in the annual oil extraction the experts name an excessively high content of water (up to 80 percent) in the oil extracted from the main oil-fields, which accounts for 70 percent of total output; the complicated geological structure; deep bedding of oil; and the use of worn-out oil-prospecting and oil-extracting equipment and outdated technology.

Moldova

Moldova: Visit of Kyrgyz President Akayev

LD1106161396 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1100 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The aim of the visit to Moldova by Kyrgyz Republic President Askar Akayev is to search for ways of achieving good relations and cooperation between those two countries of Central Asia and Europe.

Akayev has met Moldova President Snegur and other officials. Agreements on trade and economic cooperation, on customs matters, on the education, culture and tourism sectors, on regulating currency relations between the states, and on consultations between the ministries of foreign affairs were signed.

Deputy Prime Minister Muraliyev, Minister of Foreign Affairs Otunbayeva, and others took part in the visit to Moldova.

Moldova: Snegur, Kyrgyz President Reiterate Support for Yeltsin

AU1106155696 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 10 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, June 10 (INFOTAG) — On the invitation of President Mircea Snegur, the President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev arrived for an official visit to Moldova on Sunday.

In their statements for the press made at the Chisinau airport, the two leaders have pointed out that the purpose of this visit is to establish a closer cooperation between the two nations in all fields, to exchange opinions on all issues presenting mutual interest, including on cooperation in international organizations.

President Snegur said this has been a Kyrgyzstan's return visit after an official Moldovan delegation had visited Bishkek in November 1992. He said, it is very important that President Akayev gets to know processes taking place in Moldova, and that the sides exchange opinions and experience in the economic reform field.

Snegur stressed, it is essential to create an adequate legal framework for the direct cooperation of economic entities, as the present-day economic exchange worth some $1.5 million a year cannot be regarded as sufficient even for the beginning of cooperation.

These and other issues were the subject matter of negotiations between Mircea Snegur and Askar Akayev which took place right after the guests' arrival.

On Monday, Askar Akayev also visited the National Academy of Sciences, and the Moldova State University where he was awarded the title of "Doctor Honoris Cauza."

Also today, Askar Akayev met with Parliament Chairman Petru Lucinschi and Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli, and visited the National Museum of History and Ethnography.

The official Kyrgyzian delegation is leaving for Bishkek on Tuesday.

Moldova and Kyrgyzstan concluded 11 inter-state and inter-ministerial agreements today. Presidents Mircea Snegur and Askar Akayev signed a Joint Communique on the results of their meeting. Representatives of the governments, ministries and state departments, Moldovan and Kyrgyzian central banks have signed 10 more documents: agreements on cooperation in sciences, education, culture, tourism, international automobile transportations, on consultations between Foreign Ministries, inter-bank documents on settling reciprocal payments, on convertibility of national currencies, the protocol on ratification of the basic treaty between the two countries, agreements on inter-relations between customs and statistics departments.

After the signing ceremony, President Snegur has pointed out that these documents, alongside with the ones signed earlier, create a favourable legal framework for bilateral cooperation in all fields. In his words, the sides have so far not signed agreements on the mutual protection and promotion of investments and on the

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avoidance of double taxation. However, Moldovan and Kyrgyzian experts are working on them, and the documents will be signed in near months.

Mircea Snegur said the two nations have a vast and yet unclaimed potential for the development of a mutually beneficial collaboration. He has spoken up for a closer cooperation in the framework of international and regional organizations, as well as in conflict settlement.

"Today we may say that the threat of a global armed confrontation has been eliminated. But events in Abkhazia, Tajikistan, Chechnya, Dniester and other regions are warning us that separatism and regional conflicts present a serious danger. It is absolutely necessary to cooperate for consolidation of international and regional structures dealing with matters of security of states and nations," Snegur said.

President Askar Akayev has expressed a full satisfaction about the results of his visit. He pointed out "the surprising similarity of our countries, peoples, and power structures," which, in his opinion, allows to develop effective cooperation.

He stressed Kyrgyzstan's interest in Moldovan agrarian products, the still unused potentials in sciences, culture, humanitarian sphere. In his words, this cooperation has deep historic roots, because as long as 150 years ago first settlers from Moldova came to Kyrgyzstan, and made a substantial contribution to the development of his country.

President Akayev expressed satisfaction about the Moldovan leu and Kyrgyzian som being the CIS' most stable currency units, which fact is a substantial stimulus for the economic cooperation. In his opinion, the documents signed today will promote the utilization of this vast potential for cooperation which in recent years was under-used due to transition period hardships.

The Kyrgyzian President Askar Akayev has also spoken up in support of Mircea Snegur's efforts in the Dniester settlement.

At today's press conference in Chisinau, Akayev stated that "Kyrgyzstan has always demonstrated a firm stance in condemning separatism — anywhere and in whatever form. Separatism brings nothing but the negative. Our stance remains unchanged — we back the wise, flexible and firm policy being conducted by President Snegur in resolving the conflict," Akayev said.

He expressed a wish for the conflict to be settled by this year-end, and pointed out the positive experience of the Gagauz dispute solution, which can serve as an example for other countries to follow.

Answering a question about a possible outcome of elections in Russia, both Snegur and Akayev said they shared an opinion that the Russian presidential elections cannot influence decisively on the further development of the bilateral Moldovan-Kyrgyzian relations, which should develop steadily, and for which a sound basis has been provided.

"As for cooperation in the CIS framework, I am convinced that the Commonwealth will be preserved, and CIS cooperation will keep on developing only in case Boris Yeltsin is re-elected president. Any other outcome will lead to CIS' collapse," Akayev said.

Having fully supported the saying, Mircea Snegur expressed solidarity with the Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who had stated at the latest CIS Summit in Moscow that "in case of Yeltsin's defeat, the Commonwealth will remain without Russia.

"I personally admit no other variant but Yeltsin's victory. The situation just cannot develop in any other way. No matter what the election result will be, rehabilitation of the former Soviet Union and its totalitarian regime is absolutely out of the question. Conditions are different now. The five years of independent living have changed both the situation and our way of thinking," Snegur stressed.

Akayev said he would like to see Mircea Snegur re-elected to the presidential post as a leader who will be further promoting reforms in Moldova.

Moldova: FPCDM Calls For Quitting CIS, Joining NATO

AU1106180196 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 10 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, June 10 (INFOTAG). Last Sunday, the Christian Democratic Popular Front [FPCDM] held its 5th congress in Chisinau. It was attended by 1.109-of-1.173 delegates authorized by 38 local subdivisions of the Front, and over 600 guest representatives of political parties, diplomatic corps, public organizations. Chairman Iurie Rosca has reported on the Front activities after the previous congress, and particularly since the 2nd congress six years ago, which was held at the peak time of the national liberation movement, when the Popular Front had officially declared its strategic goal — unification with Romania.

Rosca stressed that "despite forecasts by our enemies and all attempts by the authorities to outlaw the Front and throw it off the political arena, we have survived, preserved our internal stability and unity of actions, and have been remaining the only one consistent political

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formation struggling for the re-unification of the two Romanian territories."

Rosca provided a detailed analysis of the socio-political situation in Moldova during the past two years, when the Popular Front had become a parliamentary party. He severely criticized the policy being conducted by the parliamentary majority and its government, having stressed that this policy had led to a catastrophic impoverishment of the population, restriction of rights and freedoms, further dragging the republic into the zone of Russian influence.

He put emphasis on the imperfect laws on the press, on local public governance, on local elections, and stressed that exactly due to that reason the Popular Front had decided to abstain from the 1995 local elections.

The FPCDM leader has emphasized the "anti-Romanian" essence of the current authorities, who have "legitimated in the Constitution such anti-scientific notions as the Moldovan language and the Moldovan people." He reminded to the delegates that the parliamentary Popular Front faction had voted against such a Constitution version, and had initiated signature raising for revision of several articles in it.

Rosca reminded also about the ruling majority's attempts to suspend the agrarian reform and preserve kolkhozes (collective farms) which are "the political and economic basis of the Agrarian Democratic Party [PDAM]." In that context, he pointed out that the Front faction in Parliament had succeeded to cancel, through the Constitutional Court, the anti-constitutional decisions of the parliamentary majority in that essential issue.

He accused the "ruling majority" of a dual policy with regard to the West, and reminded that the Popular Front "remains the only one political movement which had included in its parliamentary election platform a provision on the necessity for Moldova to join NATO and Euro-Atlantic structures."

The leader of the opposition movement with Moldova's richest political traditions has stressed the consistency of the Front in remaining the only one force which openly struggles for the Moldovan-Romanian unification, and said with a particular pride that "both our friends and opponents identify as one indivisible whole such notions as a Romanian, a frontist, and a unionist."

He expressed confidence that the Front's ideals will triumph, for "these are not states that create nations, but nations create states."

Iurie Rosca has spoken up for relieving government-imposed artificial barriers for registering the Bessarabian Metropoly, and for introduction of religion as a school discipline beginning from this coming academic year. The congress has approved of the proposals, and passed appropriate resolutions on the issues.

The forum has also passed resolutions on the consequences of the anti-social policy conducted by the Agrarian Democratic Party, on the agrarian reform, on political prisoners, on Moldovan integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures, and the presidential elections.

The Popular Front congress came to a conclusion that "the only way to arrest the standards of living decline is to force the Sangheli Government go". The congress-adopted resolution "On the Consequences of the Anti-Social Policy Conducted by the Agrarian Democratic Party" reads that the consequences of the PDAM plus the Socialist Unity's rule are really ruinous for an absolute majority of the population.

The Front regards the chief reason here is that the interests of the national economy and citizens have been sacrificed to political interests. The economic collapse has been triggered by mis-orientation to cooperation with Former Soviet Union (FSU) republics only, primarily with Russia, by preservation of the administrative-command system, and by undermining of reforms.

"The all-out revision of the privatization concept by the government and ruling party has led to a profanation of the state property privatization, and to enrichment of the old communist nomenclature at the expense of the national property," the document reads. Its authors have shouldered responsibility on the Sangheli government for merging of the Mafia and state structures, for corruption and crime, for unemployment and payment arrears. The present-time domination of the mortality rate over the birth rate has been regarded by the congress as "genocide against the nation."

In its another resolution — on the agrarian reform — the Popular Front accuses the ruling coalition of safeguarding "the kolkhoz slavery," and urges the Parliament and government to remove all obstacles from the agrarian reform path.

The Popular Front congress has demanded from the Moldovan leadership "to undertake all possible measures for the immediate and unconditional liberalization of the Tiraspol's political prisoners" — the so-called Ilascu group.

The congress resolution on political prisoners points out that "the separatist Tiraspol regime seeks to utilize these people as detainees for obtaining as many concessions from Chisinau to federalize the Republic of Moldova as possible."

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The Front has laid political and moral responsibility for the fate of the political prisoners on the current Moldovan leadership.

"It is inadmissible that the fate of 4 convicts depends on the electoral gamesmanship of certain political forces in Chisinau," the resolution reads.

The Popular Front congress has stated that Moldova's sovereignty and national security, as well as peace in the region can only be ensured in case Moldova quits the CIS and gets integrated into European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

In its resolution "On the integration of the Republic of Moldova into European and Euro-Atlantic Structures," the congress has confirmed the Front's disagreement with "the policy conducted by the current regime oriented exclusively on the former empire which is camouflaging its imperial schemes with the so-called Community of Independent States." In Front's belief, the CIS has not only failed to solve any political and economic problems of Moldova, but has even aggravated them.

The Front considers as extremely deficient the "imaginary neutrality of the Republic of Moldova fixed in the Constitution but in fact being neutralized by the presence of Russian troops on the Moldovan territory, by Moscow's support of the separatist Dniester regime, and by Chisinau's consent to have Russia and Ukraine as guarantors of the Dniester settlement.

"Our participation in the Partnership for Peace Programme should serve only the beginning of our way towards the integration of the second Romanian state into NATO, as only NATO can eliminate the danger of a new imperial expansion from the East," the resolution warns.

The congress has authorized the Front Board to take "at the right moment" the final decision concerning the presidential elections and the Front's "line of behaviour."

The congress resolution on the issue explains that "for the time being, the very final decision is premature, as not all necessary elements of the political picture are yet available. A hasty decision may only inflict damage to the Popular Front and prevent it from working out an electoral tactics with an account of constantly changing political environment." The congress stressed the necessity to prevent pro-empire left-wing forces from winning the presidential post, and to preserve the prestige of the unionist opposition.

Behind the scenes, the delegates tackled a possibility of nominating a Front's own candidate for the presidency, or to back another "really democratic" candidate opposing to leftists. They also said it would be inexpedient to boycott the elections, as this would throw the Popular Front to the outskirts of the national political life.

Moldova: Government Tries To Regain Control Over Banks

AU1106174196 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 10 Jun 96

["Economic Commentary: 'Confirmation of Government Assets Does Not End Controversies'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 10/06/1996 (BASApress) — Parliament's resolution on government assets in banks does not seem to put an end to controversies over government's attempts to recover its lawful share of assets. The resolution was passed last week, after six months of debate. Opposition's demand to separately examine the individual projects on state assets privatization are expected to arouse new controversies — most notably in the case of the Savings Bank. The third issue which resulted in government's losing the controlling interest in one of the most important financial institutions was again highlighted by deputies who insist upon an investigation.

The third issue's constitutionality bothers just as much the public, which is very concerned about the indexation of deposits devalued after the introduction of the national currency.

Of course the differences are inevitable, especially since the new Savings Bank management tries to impose its conditions.

The government had to threat with court proceedings and nationalization before Saving Bank's shareholders recognized the government assets in the bank. There is no certainty either that Savings Bank shareholders will agree to comply with a parliamentary decision to introduce the amount of the state assets into the Savings Bank statutory capital. And judging by Privatization Minister Ceslav Ciobanu's statements, the government will try to take over the earlier 38 percent that was reduced to 14 percent.

The National Bank, which earlier authorized the third issue, might not be that friendly with the Savings Bank anymore. All the more reason to do so after Savings Bank representatives assaulted the National Bank for imposing harsh conditions required by U.S. experts and stated that Moldova will end up "engulfed" within three of four months by the U.S. capital.

The situation is totally different about "Agroindbank," "Eximbank" and Banca Sociala which will be privatized by individual projects. Even though demands were

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made to examine each project separately it is clear the acceptance is a matter of time and will not arouse controversies of principle.

Equally evident is that debates will be centered upon the use of proceeds from the expected sale of government assets in banks. The sum of 37 million lei will be paid off in two installments this year. Premier Andrei Sangheli said these funds could be used to set up a mostly-government-controlled financial institution and complete the Social Fund.

On the other hand, the Parliament social protection commission insists that the funds be used to pay off pension and salary arrears and buy medicines in the first place and use only 5 million lei for the foundation of a State Investment Bank.

Anyway, if the clashes of opinion could not be avoided, the deputies could be persuaded by bankers who say that a negative response to privatization demands will put Moldova in contradiction with the International Monetary Fund Memorandum and stop foreign credits. The preservation of the current state of things for the four commercial banks would mean to preserve the divergencies and block the development of these banks.

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Tajikistan

Tajikistan: Russian Border Guards' Chief Arrives To Review Situation

LD1006124996 Dushanbe KHOVAR in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel General Aleksandr Tymko, the first deputy director of the Russian Federal Border Service and head of the general staff arrived in Tajikistan on 10 June to acquaint himself with the situation on the southern borders of the CIS states.

The general intends to visit the Pyanj, Moskovskiy, and Kalaykhumb border detachments of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan, and plans to resolve a series of practical questions in order to strengthen the border.

Military sources told a KHOVAR correspondent that the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border remains difficult but under the control of the Russian border guards.

Tajikistan: Opposition, Chechens Discuss 'Terrorist Acts,' Drug Routes

LD1006123096 Dushanbe KHOVAR in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Jun 96

["Opposition schemes"—KHOVAR headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tajik government circles have found out that a meeting between the leaders of the irreconcilable opposition and a delegation from Chechnya has taken place in Moscow. Otokhon Latifi [chief opposition representative in Moscow]; Habib Sangilov; Dodojon Atoulloyev, editor-in-chief of CHAROGHI RUZ [Moscow-based Tajik opposition newspaper]; and several representatives of Haji Akbar Turajonzoda [first deputy leader of Tajik opposition] and the well-known Chechen separatist Shamil Basayev took part.

The speakers basically discussed the formation of a Tajik coalition government. Dodojon Atoulloyev called for the continuation of terrorist acts and other hostile acts against the leaders of the state, members of the government, and the most influential and authoritative people in the Republic of Tajikistan. In particular, he called for terrorist acts against Internal Affairs Minister Saidamir Zuhurov, saying that this minister has, since taking up his present office, closed almost all routes for the illegal export of cotton and aluminum from the country and does not allow the easy transit of drugs through the republic, which used to provide substantial supplies for the treasury of the irreconcilable opposition. There were calls at the meeting for terrorist acts against Prime Minister Yahyo Azimov, as well.

The meeting also discussed inter alia how to solve the financial problems of the irreconcilable opposition and means of achieving their political goals. The leaders of the opposition said in particular that active measures are being taken to solve their financial problems through material help from certain Muslim countries and Tajik businessmen living in CIS countries.

The participants in the meeting emphasized the need for mutual assistance and exchanges of experience between the fighters of the irreconcilable Tajik opposition and Chechen separatists.

Tajikistan: Foreign Minister Receives Iranian Ambassador

LD1206071396 Tehran IRNA in English 0530 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe, June 12, IRNA — Tajik Minister of Foreign Affairs Talbak Nazarov in a meeting here Tuesday with the Iranian ambassador 'Ali Ashraf Mojtahed-Shabestari said his government welcomes Iran's investment in Tajikistan in different sectors.

He reiterated that such investments would lead to promotion of Tehran-Dushanbe cooperation.

Expressing satisfaction over inauguration of Sarakhs-Tajan railroad, he noted that the vital route will connect the Central Asian republics to other parts of the globe.

The Tajik foreign minister lauded Iran's key role in Tajik peace talks and expressed hope that the existing crisis would be settled in his country soon.

Welcoming the agreement reached between Iran, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan, Nazarov said that cooperation between these countries will be beneficial for the whole region.

Meanwhile, Shabestari voiced Iran's readiness to mediate between the Tajik belligerent parties. He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always favored establishment of peace in Tajikistan and settlement of political and economic crisis in that country.

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan: Karimov Calls Trip to Romania 'Successful', 'Promising'

LD0706170296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1520 GMT 7 Jun 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Uzbek President Islam Karimov thinks his three-day visit to Romania gave a new impetus to relations between the two countries, which were almost fully disrupted after the break-up of the

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Soviet Union, the president's press staff told Interfax Friday.

Karimov called the visit, during which he held talk with President Ion Iliescu, a number of ministers, and business representatives "successful and promising."

The main result of the talks was the signing of a packet of documents, the main one being a general agreement for friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The two sides also signed agreements for encouraging international investment, avoiding double taxation, and for air and rail connections between Tashkent and Bucharest.

During his talks with Iliescu, Karimov pointed out that current bilateral relations are not up to par for the present day and need to be strengthened. Romania, Karimov noted, receives 80 percent of its import cotton from Uzbekistan, but economic ties in other fields leave something to be desired.

Karimov stressed the necessity of creating Romanian-Uzbek joint ventures, which would first of all work in textiles and furniture manufacture. The time has come, he said, not only to develop bilateral economic cooperation, but also to produce goods for export to third countries.

Romania is an "economic locomotive" in the Black Sea region and in the northern Balkans, Karimov said, stressing the country's economic potential. It is geopolitically crucial, with exits to the Black Sea and, through the Danube River, to Central Europe. Romania needs to play a significant role in providing political stability on the continent, and developing trade relations between Europe's countries, he said.

Tashkent is very interested in using Romania's transport arteries for strengthening its economic ties with European countries, he said.

Romania, for its part, can count on Uzbekistan's transport system, the window to Central Asia. Through it, Bucharest can put its goods on the richest of Asian markets, Karimov said.

Uzbekistan: India May Buy Il-76 Planes From Uzbekistan

LD0706084196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0752 GMT 7 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 7 (Interfax) — India may buy IL-76 military cargo planes made by the Tashkent aviation plant (TAPO) for its air force, head of the Ilyushin aviation center in Moscow Viktor Livanov told Interfax.

Aircraft equipped with a system for refuelling in the air may be supplied to India if the contract is signed, he said. The TAPO, the only plant in the former Soviet Union which makes IL-76 aircraft, may also sign a direct agreement with the Indian air force on regular supplies of spares for India's IL-76 planes.

India has 24 Il-76 planes of various models.

The TAPO plant is part of the Ilyushin transnational financial industrial group formed in July 1995 with participation of the Ilyushin aviation center and the Voronezh plane-building company to make new IL-96 airbuses, IL-76 cargo aircraft and IL-114 planes for local flights.

The plant has made over 900 Il-76 planes since 1974.

Uzbekistan: Bishkek Cuts Off Gas Supply to Kyrgyzstan

LD1106163796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1618 GMT 11 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BISHKEK, June 11 (Interfax) - Uzbekistan will stop pumping gas to Kyrgyzstan at 8:00 a.m. on June 12 because Kyrgyzstan failed to pay by June 10 the $7.5 million it owes to Uzbekistan for gas supplies in 1995.

Factories using natural gas as fuel will be hardest hit. Experts of the state-owned Kyrgyzgaz company could not evaluate the impact this measure will have on the country's population using gas in their homes.

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Armenia

Armenia: President Outlines Leadership Policies, Country's Problems

NC1206114396 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1100 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, June 11 (NOYAN TAPAN)—After being nominated for the September presidential elections at the June 8 VIIIth congress of the Armenian All-National Movement [AANM], Armenia's incumbent President Levon Ter-Petrosyan outlined policies being pursued by the current Armenian leadership, major problems Armenia is confronting and is going to confront with, as well as his platform.

Armenia's President stressed that the Armenian-All National Movement convenes its Congress, being attended by almost 900 delegates, after 8 years marked by enormous difficulties and mighty revolutionary wave. He said AANM had repeatedly been subjected to criticism either fair or unfair. Today the Armenian All-National Movement includes 20,000 members, who fully support policies being carried out by the current Armenian authorities.

According to President, the major achievements by the current leadership are: Armenia's independence, liberation of Artsakh [Karabakh], privatization of the land, strengthening of democracy, restructuring of the economy, consistent foreign policies and aspiration to establish normal relations with all Armenia's neighbours. Those, who do not see or admit these facts were described by President Ter-Petrosyan as being "morbid and ill-intentioned people".

Among top priorities Levon Ter-Petrosyan singled out the establishment of normal relations with Karabakh's neighbors — Turkey and Azerbaijan, development of Armenia's economy, particularly, technological modernization of the industry, encouragement of investments, etc. President holds that Armenia's future, its economic development and improvement of relations with Turkey and Azerbaijan, as well as Armenia's integration with regional and international economic structures much depends on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan said that the right to self-determination should be basic in settlement of the Karabakh dispute. He said the principle of territorial integrity should not be turned into a dictatorship of one nation over another. "We'll never agree to such approach", — President emphasized.

According to Ter-Petrosyan, the fact that the opposition ceased to shout that "Armenia's leadership has sold Karabakh" testifies that "these people (the opposition) started to recover". "We were selling Karabakh, and it was getting larger and larger", — President joked. Speaking on other statements by the opposition, which blamed the Armenian authorities for the antinational policies and announced that Karabakh had been saved by the Dashnak Party, President brought the following instances: in times of liberation of Karabakh, the Dashnak Party shipped to Artsakh only 129 guns, while out of 12 representatives of diaspora, who had been fighting in Karabakh for 5 years, only two were Dashnaks.

As to the current foreign policies, President Ter-Petrosyan noted that they had managed to establish friendly and warm relations with many countries. He especially pointed to Armenia's relations with Russia, which have never been so good as they are now. "Our relations with Russia will be more deepened provided democratic powers maintain their grip on power there. And I do not doubt that they'll succeed", Ter-Petrosyan said.

Speaking on Armenia's relations with Turkey Ter-Petrosyan said: "We'll improve our relations with Turkey and are ready to establish serious trade, economic, scientific and cultural ties, which will be first of all to Armenia's benefit."

The second part of President's speech was fully dedicated to the strategy of the Armenian All-National Movement. "I have never had affiliation to any party, but one day I became a member of the AANM and I am going to remain its member until I die", Armenia's President said.

He opined that Armenia would become a strong, stable and eternal state, when it has really strong and stable traditional political parties.

Armenia is on its way towards establishment of one of such parties, President said. AANM has already made first steps. It has been enlarged and now has many allies. The Armenian All-National Movement supports the ideas expressed by "Respublika" bloc. Party's social basis consists of the most powerful strata of Armenia's men of property (315,000 farmers), and the number of Party's members tend to grow. The next step is further fusion of public organizations into a single mighty political institution. "The Armenian All-National Movement will be like the US Republican Party or British Conservative Party. Now we are creating such a liberal-democratic party based on national interests. In the near future, I think, we'll be also able to complete this creation from the formal point of view, I mean", Armenia's President Levon Ter-Petrosyan stressed.

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Another party, a socialist one, which is to protect workers' interests, will also be established, so as not to upset the balance, President said.

Armenia: Prime Minister Leaves for Istanbul Habitat Conference

NC1106170696 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1600 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation headed by Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan left for Turkey today. The prime minister will attend the Habitat II conference being held in Istanbul under UN auspices on the outstanding problems of urban development. The conference, in which Armenian specialists are participating, is debating housing projects, habitation, and urbanization problems.

Armenia: Russian Ruble Said 'Ousted' on Currency Markets

NC1106191396 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1607 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, June 11 (NOYAN TAPAN)—NOYAN TAPAN's weekly economic reviews repeatedly stressed the part of the Armenian Central Bank and the Yerevan Stock Exchange [YSE] in stabilization of Armenia's national currency and reduction of inflation rate. It was also said that the lion share of currencies, either dollars or Russian rubles, was provided to the Yerevan Stock Exchange by the Armenian Central Bank.

Chairman of the Yerevan Stock Exchange Sedrak Sedrakyan noted that the above statement is not correct, particularly, in what concerns the Russian ruble.

In 1994 the Armenian Central Bank provided 80.6 percent of USD [U.S. dollars] to YSE, while the rest 19.4 percent were provided by the commercial banks of Armenia. Starting 1995, commercial bank's share increased up to 22.5 percent, whereas Central Bank's share dropped accordingly. Besides, the greater amount of dollars sold by commercial banks in 1995 was purchased by the Central Bank. It is quite a positive tendency, which in a couple of years may lead to commercial banks providing 40-45 percent of the total amount of dollars to the currency market, Sedrakyan said.

With the Russian ruble the picture is quite different. Central Bank's share in providing Rus. rubles dropped from 69.4 percent in 1994 down to 36.4 percent in 1995, which is regarded as being quite normal for such currencies as Russian ruble is. Interest displayed by commercial banks towards the Russian currency was chiefly conditioned by relative profit that operations "dollar-dram-ruble- dollar" (the difference in rates is meant) brought as well as by the demand for funds needed to finance purchase-sale bargains in Russia. However, this interest was to a great extent weakened by recent decision of the Russian Central Bank, establishing a new currency corridor instead of rates set on the Moscow Interbank Exchange. We may even say that the Russian ruble has been ousted from Armenia's currency markets, Sedrakyan said.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: Guliyev Receives Russian Duma Speaker Seleznev, Delegation

NC1106185696 Baku TURAN in English 1244 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/11.06.96/TURAN—Today the speaker of the Milli Mejlis Rasul Guliyev received the delegation of the Russian Duma headed by its chairman Gennadiy Seleznev.

Rasul Guliyev expressed a hope that interparliamentary relations between the Russian Duma and the Milli Mejlis will develop further. He also noted the necessity of the development of the legal basis for cultural, political and economic integration within the frames of the CIS.

Gennadiy Seleznev told Rasul Guliyev about the regime of the work of the Russian Duma. "We see in the face of Azerbaijan a reliable partner," Seleznev said. According to the speaker of the Russian Parliament, a working group for friendly relations with the Azeri parliament has been created. He also noted that neither Russia nor Azerbaijan use their potential for the development of the economic relations. Seleznev touched on the transport problems between Azerbaijan and Russia. However, he noted, these problems can be explained by some political reasons. According to Seleznev, both sides are going to resolve the problem of the "Caspian knot" as a single transport system.

Azerbaijan: Russian Duma Speaker on Benefits of Integration With CIS

NC1106185296 Baku TURAN in English 1233 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/11.06.96/TURAN—"Process of economic integration is going on presently within the borders of the CIS. It is taking place on the two and four basis. We hope that in the future the integration will acquire political character," speaker of the Russian Duma Gennadiy Seleznev told TURAN correspondent.

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Commenting on negative attitude of Azerbaijan to creation of over-national structures within the frames of the CIS, Seleznev said that these danger was exaggerated. "Nobody is afraid of such overnational structure as the European Council and everybody tries to enter it," speaker of the Russian Duma said.

Responding the question if Russia makes pressure on Azerbaijan in order to impose its position on some questions Seleznev said that "Russia does not want and cannot make pressure on Azerbaijan." He said "simply, there are some questions, which are easy to solve together, Moscow considers, such as joint guard of external borders of the CIS."

Concerning the ways of the resolution of the Armenian-Azeri conflict, Seleznev said that two-year truce creates favourable condition for the resolution of this conflict and all interested countries should apply maximum efforts.

Azerbaijan: State Duma Wants Broader Russo-Azeri Relations

LD1106135796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1322 GMT 11 Jun 96

[By Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Pavel Kuznetsov, Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, June 11 (Itar-Tass) — Russia wants Azerbaijan to be a reliable partner and counts on complete understanding in relations with this Transcaucasian state. Gennadiy Seleznyov, the Speaker of the Russian State Duma, said this today in Baku during a meeting with chairman of Azerbaijan's parliament Rasul Guliyev.

Prior to the negotiations at the level of the parliamentary delegations of the two countries Seleznyov said the State Duma is not satisfied with the present level of Russo-Azeri relations and favours their broadening. He also said that a special group for relations with the Azeri parliament has been formed.

The Speaker said that transport is among the problems of relations between the two countries. Automobile and railway services between Azerbaijan and Russia were actually disrupted over 18 months ago because of the events in Chechnya. Seleznyov sees the way out of the situation in using Caspian waterways.

Guliyev said Azerbaijan also favours closer relations with Russia. A legislative base for this integration has been formed. An agreement on inter-parliamentary cooperation was signed two years ago. It is now important to perfect it. Guliyev regards the visit of Soviet colleagues as an initial step in this direction.

Azerbaijan: Aliyev Receives Russian Duma Delegation

NC1206115196 Baku TURAN in English 1100 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/12.06.96./TURAN— Last evening President Aliyev received Russia's Parliamentary delegation headed by the speaker of Russian Duma, Gennadiy Seleznev. Welcoming the delegation President Aliyev expressed the opinion that the visit will promote development of bilateral friendly relations.

Gennadiy Seleznev said Russian Duma has determined priorities for its activities and the issues related to strengthening of relations with the CIS-member states are on the first place.

"We are satisfied that Russia's Foreign Affairs Ministry has chosen the same priorities for itself", the speaker of Russian Duma said. Seleznev said that the group for relations with Azerbaijan is established in Russian Duma and its activities are coordinated by Deputy Ivan Anichkin. The members of Russian delegation mentioned that there is agreement concerning creation of the same group in Azerbaijan's Parliament. As to opinion of Gennadiy Seleznev, cooperation between the Parliaments will assist to effective resolvement of urgent issues and intergovernmental relations.

"Approximately 40 various intergovernmental agreements have been signed between Azerbaijan and Russia, but all they do not work. A serious control must be taken over this issue", the chairman of Russian Duma noted.

During the meeting the members of Russian delegation said they are satisfied with the condition of Russian-speaking population in Azerbaijan. In this connection President Aliyev said "Russians are citizens of Azerbaijan, part of Azeri nation".

"Azerbaijan is their Motherland. We will make everything for the nations living here have equal rights and feel themselves good. This is our principal policy", President Aliyev said.

It has been also stressed during the meeting that due to Georgian-Ossetian conflict, Azerbaijan has given refuge to 14,000 Ossetian refugees and 5,000 stayed to live in Baku.

As far as the Karabakh conflict is concerned, President Aliyev said it has laid the fundament to all ethnic conflicts on the territory of the former USSR. "The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has laid the basis to collapse of the former Union", Azeri President said.

The members of the delegation have been also interested whether official Baku is ready to integration similar

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to the Union between Russia and Belarussia. In this connection President Aliyev stressed he welcomes those forms of integration, which meet the interests of the CIS-member states, he also noted that one of the reasons of collapse of the USSR has been gross mistakes in the national policy.

"Russia also makes these mistakes today", Azeri President noted.

Azerbaijan: Russian, Azerbaijan Lawmakers Discuss Karabakh, Caspian

NC1106190496 Baku TURAN in English 1233 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/11.06.96/TURAN—"Azerbaijan prefers the resolution of the political questions in the relations with Russia," Deputy of the Russian Duma Valentin Tzoy said. According to him, Russian Duma should immediately discuss the Karabakh question, as it is a key question which is a determining in the relations between Azerbaijan and Russia. "This question should be resolved with consideration of the interests of the Azeri population and 500 thousand Russian speaking population of the republic," Tzoy said. He noted that "the activity of some chiefs in the settling of the conflict, in particular Vladimir Kazimirov, are not too effective. That causes tension of some leaders of Azerbaijan," Tzoy said.

He said that the theme of the conflict was one of the main during the meeting of the parliamentary elections of the two countries. Another tense question discussed during the meeting of the speakers of the parliaments of the two countries is status of the Caspian. In this question the countries have more contradictions than agreements, deputy of the Russian Duma said.

Georgia

Georgia: German President Arrives in Tbilisi

LD1106140396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1330 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, June 11 (Interfax) — German President Roman Herzog arrived in Tbilisi, Georgia, on Tuesday afternoon for an official visit.

The schedule of his two-day stay in the country includes meetings with Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, parliament speaker Zurab Zhvania and numerous ministers. Herzog and his delegation will visit the Georgian Foreign Ministry, the Supreme Court, and the Trade and Foreign Economic Relations Ministry.

The numerous documents to be signed during the visit include an agreement on an emergency DM [German marks] 50 million loan from Germany for the reconstruction of the Georgian energy industry.

Shevardnadze said on national radio Monday that the visit marks "the start of new large-scale and multifaceted relations between Germany and Georgia and shows Germany's significant interest in the problems of the Caucasus."

Georgia: Former Prime Minister Given Political Asylum in Finland

AU1206113396 Tbilisi REZONANSI in Georgian 6 Jun 96 p 3

[IBERIA report: "Georgia's Former Prime Minister is in Finland"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Based on information from a reliable source in the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, an IBERIA correspondent reports that former Georgian Prime Minister Besarion Gugushvili (under former President Z. Gamsakhurdia), who is being sought by Georgian police, is in Finland, where he has been granted political asylum.

Georgia: Opposition Leader Addresses Current Issues

AU1106092896 Tbilisi KAVKASIONI in Georgian 23 May 96 pp 1-2

[Interview with Nodar Natadze, chairman of the United Republican Party National Committee, by Khatuna Rekhviashvili in Tbilisi; date not given: under the rubric "Opposition": "The Authorities Do Not Have the Ability, Desire, or Means To Protect Their Citizens From Thieves"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Rekhviashvili] Why did the United Republican Party [URP] break up?

[Natadze] The URP has not broken up. One group left the party. Unfortunately, our positions differed greatly on a number of issues — more than is possible in a party that lost these elections.

[Rekhviashvili] How would you assess the work of the current parliament?

[Natadze] Only negatively. Parliament is passive and is not doing anything. The president's current policy is threatening the country with economic, strategic, and moral destruction and subordination to Russia. Parliament is not opposing this policy and cannot do so since the present legislative body was elected following the greatest fraud.

[Rekhviashvili] To what extent can one justify presidential rule in Georgia, and is it optimal for the country?

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[Natadze] A so-called civic society has not yet been formed in the country. Under such conditions, even if we have a good president and extensive rights, the temptation to establish a dictatorship will be so great that we cannot condiser this form of rule optimal.

[Rekhviashvili] How would you assess the current economic reforms?

[Natadze] The Georgian authorities are automatically imitating Russia. The implementation of economic reforms in Georgia is in the hands of the old communist mafia. This signifies the misappropriation and destruction of the country's property, economic impoverishment, and subordination to Russia. The reforms in Russia have destroyed the country's military-industrial complex. Blindly following their experience will not bring us any positive results. Everything that has been created will be destroyed, and we will not be able to build anything new.

[Rekhviashvili] How can we overcome the population's extremely difficult social situation?

[Natadze] There are two sides to regulation: One is the normative legislative side, and the other concerns cadres. During the campaign, the Union of [Georgia's] Citizens [UGC] promised 1 million jobs in Georgia, the achievement of which is unimaginable. Production is being stifled by the current economic policy. Our task, however, is to stimulate it. If the state stopped giving the advantage to foreigners and began to tax their earnings, our country's highly qualified work force would no longer be idle. Inviting foreigners to do simple work and spending dollars on them is an economic diversion. The UGC will not be able to create the jobs it has promised.

[Rekhviashvili] What model of territorial-administrative organization could be acceptable for Georgia?

[Natadze] The German example is often used to prove the superiority of federal administration. This argument is false. Federalism was imposed upon Germany by the Allies after World War II to weaken the country. Russia is imposing federalism upon us for the same reason. The Georgian authorities, which favor this form of territorial-administrative organization, are defending Russia's interests, not Georgia's. If federalism is implemented in the Republic, it will mean the dismemberment of national consciousness within two generations at the most.

[Rekhviashvili] How do you view the settlement of the South Ossetian and Abkhazian problem?

[Natadze] They are two different problems. The declaration of autonomy in Samachablo was, from the outset, illegal. It was the duty of the Georgian authorities to revoke it, and they did so. The recommendations of the OSCE are so anti-Georgian that such advice would have made Orjonikidze [head of committee responsible for reestablishment of Soviet authority in Caucasus in 1920] and his cohorts envious in their time. It is illegal to refer to Samachablo as South Ossetia. The autonomy was rightfully abolished (by the legal Georgian authorities). What right has a Georgian citizen to refer to it as such? Shevardnadze has been wary of referring to Samachablo as South Ossetia. On his return to Georgia, the current president once mentioned it in those terms and was rebuked for doing so in SAKARTVELO, since then he has not dared to refer to it as such.

Primakov has stated that "an agreement will be signed between Georgia and South Ossetia." There should not and will not be any such Ossetia If the current authorities grant Ossetia territorial autonomy, the time will come when the entire Parliament will be put on trial. The Ossetians form a diaspora in Georgia. They settled here a long time ago. Everyone is entitled to equal civil rights, but autonomy is not a right granted to people who settle in a compact group in one area. This is the norm in all countries and is protected by international agreements, so why should Georgia be an exception?!

Abkhazia should be granted special status within Georgia. There is no place in the world (apart from the territory that they inhabit) that the Abkhazians can call their homeland. Therefore, they have the right to have a homeland with exclusive and special rights. But this right cannot be extended to the entire territory of Abkhazia. Abkhazia is the homeland of the Georgians. Its name, feudal culture, and statehood are Georgian. Georgians have always lived there. The Georgians and Abkhazians should agree on the distribution of rights in the territory so we do not need to conduct negotiations on its division.

It is possible to settle the Samachablo and Abkhazian problems against the background of powerful Armed Forces. The existence of a powerful military does not mean disputes should be settled by force. The Army determines the strength of a country, but I say with full responsibility that Armed Forces will not be formed in Georgia given the current attitude of the president and subordinate levels of authority to the Army, and our real interests will not be implemented in Abkhazia and Samachablo without the Armed Forces.

[Rekhviashvili] What, in your view, is Georgia's current political orientation, and what orientation is expedient for the country in the future?

[Natadze] The orientation toward Russia is a policy of enslavement and wholly without prospects. It is

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expedient for Georgia to adopt a policy of active neutrality, although Georgia is typologically a Western country, and its future allies are Western countries. Naturally, it is desirable for us to join NATO.

Russia's imperial policy is now being modernized. Federalism in its broad understanding is a new way of implementating the principle of imperialism. Russia hopes to bind the collapsed empire and bring the former Union republics under its influence by preserving official state borders. That is one of the reasons for establishing federalism in Georgia. Moreover, Georgia's membership in the EU came about thanks to Russia. [sentence as published] If Russia had been, as before, hostile toward NATO and the EU, our current authorities would not have dared go anywhere near them. No one is under the illusion that the country is oriented toward the West. These steps taken toward Europe do not exclude integration within the Russian imperial system, and that danger is real today.

[Rekhviashvili] Your party was left out of power following the elections. What limits have been placed on the party's activities?

[Natadze] The party has set complex tasks for itself which demand much work and attention. I view the rapprochement between the parties and the creation of the coordination center, which embraces 14 parties, as very promising. It also requires a great deal of work and responsibility.

[Rekhviashvili] What sort of relationship do you have with the new authorities?

[Natadze] None at all. We have our press, which enables us to inform society of the party's views concerning bills, and we also have positive plans for leading Georgia out of the difficult situation in which it finds itself. We have drawn up a concept for Georgia's national and state salvation.

[Rekhviashvili] How do you view the development of events in this electoral cycle?

[Natadze] The election results were widely falsified. The local bodies of power were appointed, not elected. Naturally, they did everything they could to get their candidates into the central bodies of power. This is a flagrant violation of the law. It is essential to hold local elections, and the sooner the better because the Parliament is not leading the country. Early parliamentary elections should be held according to our party's plan.

As for the economy, one can expect the unbridled domination of the mafias and the spread of hunger. I can say categorically that nothing can save us while we remain in the hands of these authorities who, from the president down to the lower levels, do not have the ability, desire, or means to protect citizens from thieves.

The UGC is a political contingent of restored communists who are motivated solely by self-interest. It has no ideology. The group is big and has a big appetite. So long as this group, which has been formed around an ideology of self-interest, reigns supreme in the country, there will not be enough money to pay teachers, doctors, or pensioners or to create an army, no matter how much wealth comes into Georgia. The country will be permanently poor.

[Rekhviashvili] Do you view the URP as a political force?

[Natadze] The essence of a political force in Georgia has not been defined today. Therefore, it is difficult to say. The party does not have funds, something without which it is difficult to talk about any force.

A certain segment of society is afraid that the departure of Shevardnadze and his team will result in instability in the country. But this motive cannot constitute continuous support for a political force. The people are awaiting a new force. I believe the national liberation movement's task is to create ready forms of self-organization for the nation with their corresponding structures. This should be the primary goal of the parties that make up the national liberation movement today. If a party cannot prepare this program, it should make no claims to power.

[Rekhviashvili] A letter published in SAKARTVELO stated that the overthrow of Zviad Gamsakhurdia was a mistake. What is your view?

[Natadze] It was not a mistake but a crime. [passage omitted]

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Estonia

Estonia: 'Nordic Package' of New NATO Members Supported

BR1206100096 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 11 Jun 96 p 12

[Report on interview with Juri Luik, former Estonian foreign minister and future ambassador to Belgium, by Mikael Holmstrom; place and date not given: "Estonians Welcome NATO Proposals"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "A very interesting idea, a splendid one from our point of view," former Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik said in reference to the scenario whereby Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania would join NATO as a "Nordic package."

Juri Luik took part in the international round table conference which the Moderate Coalition Party and the German Christian Democratic Party arranged in Visby at the weekend where the idea was floated.

"I understand that the Finns and Swedes are not yet prepared to take this step. These countries have a long security policy tradition of their own, in Sweden's case stretching back over several centuries. But I have a very positive feeling that a process is under way that will bring NATO closer together with both Sweden and Finland," Juri Luik said. In August Luik will become Estonia's ambassador to Belgium, and hence to NATO.

[Holmstrom] During the conference a critical U.S. comment concerned the fact that the policy of cooperation with Russia being conducted by today's NATO countries would be something that the Baltic states would not accept if they joined NATO.

[Luik] We are definitely in favor of having peaceful and constructive relations with Russia. We have problems from the past. But essentially there are no insoluble problems between the Baltic states and Russia. The three Baltic states would be much more relaxed and constructive if they were members of the Western alliance and felt more secure.

Estonia: FM on Security Guarantees as Compensation for CFE Treaty

LD1006195696 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 10 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After the changes favorable for Russia were made at a conference in Vienna to the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe [CFE] Treaty Estonia would like to receive additional security guarantees and support to increase its defense capability. This is what Foreign Minister Siim Kallas has stated. According to the foreign minister who has returned from the North Atlantic Cooperation Council meeting in Berlin, Estonia will coordinate with Latvia its position regarding changes to the CFE Treaty and present it to the United States next week.

Under the changes made recently to the CFE Treaty Russia will be able to increase considerably the ratio of its weaponry in Pskov Region. [passage omitted] The date by which the treaty had to be complied with passed slightly over six months ago but Russia has not complied with the conditions even now. Intead, consistent and serious lobby work has been carried out so as to change the treaty. To what extent are the changes achieved a game above the heads of the Baltic countries again?

[Begin Kallas recording] Well no, this was not acknowledged. What was emphasized was that any specifications in the treaty will as a whole increase security in the area and therefore also security for the Baltic states even though in a specific area a specific set of numbers became less favorable for us, let us say. [end recording]

Kallas stated also that Russia is hardly likely to increase its weaponry in Pskov area and what it in fact amounts to is a psychological measure. There is also a control mechanism so that in essence Russia will not be able to move its troops without the United States say-so. There has been some talk of compensation for Estonia and Latvia. According to Kallas, what is meant is additional political agreements and cooperation so as to increase Estonia's defense capability.

[Begin Kallas recording] This is to do with, well, making political cooperation on security, let us say, more specific. But it is too early to say anything very precisely. [end recording]

Estonia: Tallinn Signs European PHARE Aid Agreement

LD1006170496 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 10 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Finance Minister Mart Opmann and the European delegation's charge d'affaires, (Niall Leonard), signed today the memorandum on the funding of the national EU's PHARE [Poland-Hungary Actions For Economic Reconversion] program for 1996. Here is Ago Uudelepp with details:

[Uudelepp] The PHARE national program is a program for non-returnable aid by the EU Commission designed on the basis of Estonia's priorities and requests made proceeding from these priorities. Within the framework of the national PHARE finance memorandum, aid to the value of nearly ECU70 million, which is over 1 million [as heard] kroons, was provided for Estonia between 1991-1995.

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[Begin Opmann recording] [passage omitted] Since the EU financial year begins from 1 July this memorandum is meant for the next two years. I would like to tell you that this financial memorandum amounts to ECU26 million, which is nearly 380 million kroons, and it covers the priorities listed by various departments and ministries and approved by the government. There are five fo them: first, our movement toward the EU, institutional and legislative aid, development of regional policy, exports and infrastructure. [end recording]

[Uudelepp] Sphere by sphere the financial aid will be divided as follows: ECU6 million to move toward the EU and to adhere to the European agreement; ECU3 million to develop exports; ECU5.5 million for regional development; ECU6.5 million for state administration and ECU5 million for developing infrastructure. [passage omitted]

Estonia: Minister Not Planning To Meet Primakov in 'Near Future'

WS1006144496 Tallinn BNS in English
1105 GMT 10 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Jun 10, BNS — Estonian Foreign Minister Siim Kallas is not planning to meet with his Russian counterpart, Yevgeniy Primakov, in the near future.

Kallas, who met with the Russian foreign minister last week at a conference of NATO member states' foreign ministers in Berlin, told BNS Saturday there was right now no talk about a bilateral meeting.

"Anyway, it does not pay to rush into this meeting, some preparatory work is still necessary," the foreign minister said. "The meeting will certainly not take place before the end of the Russian presidential elections."

Foreign ministries of the two countries first announced a possible meeting between Kallas and Primakov in February. The meeting, which was expected to happen in April, did not then take place.

Latvia

Latvia: Foreign Ministry Rejects Lukin's Ideas on Baltic Security

WS1206101996 Tallinn BNS in English
1004 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, June 12, BNS — Latvia views NATO as its only security guarantor and does not currently see any other alternative how the Baltic state could become a part of the European security system, Foreign Ministry's Press Secretary Rihards Mucins told BNS.

He made the statement commenting the Russian State Duma deputy Vladimir Lukin's interview in Latvia's Russian-language SM SEGODNA newspaper.

Lukin claims that the NATO unilateral security guarantees are ineffective, and that Russia is ready to begin talks on forming of collective security system for Russia, NATO and the Baltic countries.

Latvia supports Russia's closer cooperation with NATO, but sees the North Atlantic alliance as Latvia's only security guarantor and will do all possible to join this organization, said Mucins.

Lukin says in the interview to the SM SEGODNA newspaper that Russia has no aggressive intentions toward the Baltic states, and that Russia could give security guarantees to Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

"Russia, of course, is not a dangerous country, but if the Balts are worried, we could provide them security guarantees," says Lukin.

Latvia: President Ulmanis Fires Border Guard Chief

LD1006171496 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1600 GMT 10 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At a joint conference with the prosecutor- general, the defense minister and the secretary of state at the Interior Ministry, President Guntis Ulmanis has taken a decision to dismiss Leonids Lasmanis, the commander of the border guard forces. The state president took this decision following an (?incident) on 8 June when 13 kalashnikovs disappeared from the 6th border guard battalion of Liepaja.

The president demanded that the leadership of the Defense Ministry and armed forces carry out an inventory of all the arms, ammunition and equipment in the immediate future, so that after that the Interior Ministry and the national security council which has been set up at the government could familiarize themselves with the results of the inventory.

Latvia: Maximum 3 Polling Stations Opening for Russian Elections

LD1106141896 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1200 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The opening of additional polling stations in Latvia would facilitate voting in Russian presidential elections; however, it is not compulsory. This is the view of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] mission in Latvia.

The elections to the Russian State Duma last December showed that voting in Latvia can also be held at three polling stations. The Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has stated that Latvia will not agree to Russia's request to open more than three polling stations in Latvia because internationally accepted legal norms do not provide for this.

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